

Havel: Czechs will honour arms contracts

PRAGUE (R) — President Václav Havel said on Sunday Czechoslovakia would fulfil any arms export contracts already signed or approved but he hoped no more would be concluded in future. "If we have signed a contract for the shipment of a certain number of tanks to Syria, then this is a contract that has been signed properly and we shall honour it," he said in his regular radio broadcast. "Nonetheless I hope that this is the last contract of this kind." He was referring to the export of 250 Soviet-designed T-72 tanks to Syria authorised by the foreign trade ministry last year despite strong protests from the United States and Israel. The issue of the arms exports was stirred up this week after a shipment of 16 Czechoslovak-made tanks was intercepted by the German navy on a German freighter heading to the Middle East in the Mediterranean on Thursday. Syria protested to Bonn over the seizure and Czechoslovak officials denied any wrongdoing.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Deputies propose forming unemployment committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The lower House of Parliament Sunday discussed proposal by 11 deputies for the creation of a parliamentary committee to deal with the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom. The House, meeting under the chairmanship of its Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat and a number of ministers, decided to delay discussion of the matter to another session. The House asked the proponents of the proposal to prepare a working paper explaining the duties and objectives of the committee. The House also approved a loan agreement between Jordan and France as well as several of the House's financial committees' decisions.

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Palestinian delegates leave for home

AMMAN (R) — The Palestinian delegation to multilateral Arab-Israeli talks in Moscow left Amman for their homes in the Israeli-occupied territories on Sunday. The delegation did not take part in the talks on Tuesday and Wednesday because the U.S. and Russian sponsors, according to Israeli demands, refused to let in delegates from east Jerusalem or from outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip. PLO sources said on Sunday the Palestinians would soon submit to the United States the names of the delegates they want to send to the five multilateral working groups due to meet in late April and early May.

Avalanche death toll in Turkey rises to 135

ANKARA (R) — Rescuers on Sunday found 26 bodies in a village engulfed by an avalanche in southeast Turkey raising the overall death toll to 135, officials said. Sirnak deputy governor Nurettin Guven told reporters about 180 civilians were still missing in the village of Gormec, swallowed by a snowslide early on Saturday (see earlier story on page 2).

'Tanks leave Polish port for Syria'

WARSAW (R) — Twelve Czechoslovak-made T-72 tanks have left Poland's Baltic port of Szczecin bound for Syria, PAP news agency said on Sunday. Besides the tanks, designed in the former Soviet Union and produced in Czechoslovakia under licence, tonnes of ammunition and spare parts were aboard the Danish-registered vessel Nadia J, PAP said.

Drunken Yugoslav soldier kills 6 people

BELGRADE (R) — A Yugoslav army reservist went on a drunken rampage on Sunday, killing six people including his girlfriend's mother, father and brother before he was arrested, Tanjug news agency reported. The agency quoted police as saying Drago Milicic, from the village of Modran in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, shot three fellow soldiers as they slept in a converted nursery school used as a barracks in nearby Bijeljina. Other soldiers sleeping in the same room escaped by jumping out of a window.

IRA launches triple bomb attack

BELFAST (R) — The IRA launched a triple bomb attack on Belfast hotels on Saturday night, prompting one leading nationalist to accuse the guerrilla group of pursuing a "scorched earth policy" in Northern Ireland. The Irish Republican Army, battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, has firebombed over 300 sites in the past year and devastated several town centres in the province with car bombs. Stepping up what it calls its "economic warfare" against Britain, the IRA attacked the three Belfast hotels with bombs either left in bags by masked men or hidden in cars outside, police said. The hotels were evacuated in time and no one was hurt, but damage was extensive. Alban Magness of the moderate Nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party said of the attack: "This is part of a systematic campaign by the IRA of a scorched earth policy. It is a wholesale strategy aimed at creating as much destruction and economic deprivation as possible."

Blast kills 14 in Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AP) — A powerful bomb exploded Sunday in a motorboat in an insurgency-torn area of Bangladesh, killing 14 of the 30 passengers, the army said. Buddhist insurgents apparently planted the bomb, which also injured 12 people, said an army official in this southeastern city. It was the worst terrorist action this year by the insurgents, who are fighting for autonomy in the resource-rich hill tracts region, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Israeli army told to shoot armed Palestinians on sight

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army, in a campaign to prevent Palestinian gun attacks on Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, has told Israeli troops to shoot armed Palestinians on sight, military sources said on Sunday. "If a soldier sees an armed Palestinian, the instructions are to shoot him in order to stop him," one source said. "The soldier is to make every effort to protect his own life." Four Israelis, three of them settlers, have been shot dead in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since late October. The new order supersedes an "arrest of suspects" order that required troops to call armed people to halt, fire into the air and shoot at suspects' legs before firing at the body.

The sources said the old order was still in effect for unarmed Palestinian activists in a four-year uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Despite the standing orders, nearly all the 851 Palestinians killed by Israelis in the uprising have been activists demonstrating, throwing stones or writing graffiti on walls.

The army last month imposed curfews and made a sweep of arrests in the occupied territories but security sources said they failed to capture gunmen wanted for shooting the Israelis.

Military sources said last week the army had given Jewish settlers greater policing powers in the territories to combat attacks by Palestinians. After attacks, settlers will be

HAMDULILLAH ASSALAMEH:

His Majesty King Hussein Sunday left Al Hussein Medical Centre (photo) after a successful minor surgery in his right leg Wednesday. In a statement to Radio Jordan, King Hussein expressed his appreciation for the warm feeling shown by the Jordanian people. The King said: "I share with them the same love" and "I hope that their foreheads and banners will remain high." The King reiterated his and Jordanians' adherence to the principles, values, goals and objectives of the country. "We will do our duty towards the future generations," the King said in a cheerful and enthusiastic mood (photo by Meldos).



PLO says Habash trip secretly planned; leaked

TUNIS (R) — A visit to France by Palestinian leader George Habash was planned in secret but leaked to the press in Paris to cause a domestic crisis, aides to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Sunday.

Dr. Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), returned to Tunis on Saturday after receiving medical treatment in Paris. "The operation was conducted with the greatest secrecy and we had agreed with France to keep it secret. The answer to the question of how this accord was violated is to be found in Paris," said the source, who did not wish to be identified.

"We were surprised to learn that the press were present at Le Bourget airport (in Paris) on Wednesday when Habash arrived, and that they were in front of the Paris hospital where he was taken," the source said. "Who alerted the press in what seems to have been in an organised fashion? The answer is in Paris, not Tunis."

In Paris, Antenne-2 television network has said it was tipped off from sources in Tunis about Dr. Habash's impending arrival and had its cameras rolling when he stepped onto the tarmac at Le Bourget airport.

The French media have been buzzing with theories on how the whole fiasco came about. One suggestion was that Dr. Habash had come to France regularly for medical care — the only difference being that this time it leaked out.

That would explain why ministers were not necessarily informed, and why Dr. Habash's wife Helda denied initial reports that he had suffered a stroke in Tunis. She told Radio France International her husband had come for a routine check-up.

But PFLP officials in Damascus said Dr. Habash's visit was his first to Paris.

The growing scandal over Habash has caused a major embarrassment to France's Socialist government.

French Prime Minister Edith Cresson was in the firing line on Sunday.

With Dr. Habash safely dispatched to Tunis, members of the ruling party began hunting out the authors of the government's public humiliation.

"In view of the seriousness of this blunder, political sanctions are necessary," said former minister Jean Le Garrec after a party leadership meeting on Saturday.

Laurent Fabius, a former prime minister recently appointed to head a party that was already trailing badly in opinion polls, said political decisions must be taken.

"We are in a bind, and we must get out of it as quickly as possible," he said.

The resignation of six senior government officials has so far failed to convince the French that the decision to allow into the country a man suspected of masterminding many of the plane hijackings of the 1960s and 1970s was taken by civil servants without clearance from their political masters.

With both President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas visiting Oman at the time of the Habash visit, attention is focussing on Ms. Cresson and Interior Minister Philippe Marchand.

Both were curtly summoned to the Elyse Palace on Saturday for talks, but there was no immediate sign of ministerial changes.

In Damascus, the PFLP said Sunday that the French government should apologise over the detention of its leader.

The PFLP politburo said in a statement Dr. Habash's visit to France for medical treatment had been "officially arranged" and his detention for questioning had hurt Palestinian feelings.

"The French government can only erase this mark of disgrace by apologising for its behaviour to the French people, who rejected this action, and to the Arab and Palestinian peoples."

Poor human rights record in Kuwait — U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Serious human rights problems remained in Kuwait after U.S.-led coalition forces last year routed the Iraqi occupation forces, the State Department said in its annual global report on human rights.

Shortly before the department issued the country-by-country report, Human Rights Watch, a private U.S. monitoring group, said in a statement that a test of the impartiality of the survey would be its "willingness to speak frankly and openly about the poor human rights record... in Kuwait after liberation."

Kuwait was among countries on which Human Rights Watch accused President Bush's administration of pursuing a double standard on human rights. Others included China, Turkey and Haiti.

"The final days of the occupation were marked by an accelerated and systematic terror campaign" of Iraqi killings, torture and arbitrary arrests, along with ruthless suppression of basic freedoms, the State Department said.

Revenge action by Kuwaiti civilians and security personnel who turned on suspected collaborators followed "in the chaotic days after liberation" at the end of February, it said.

"Vigilante abuse began to decline" with the return of government authority but torture and other human rights violations continued both during and after martial law ended June 26, the report continued.

The State Department said the Kuwaiti government on several

occasions responded to criticism from foreign governments and humanitarian organisations by improving conditions.

This brought "a significant reduction in human rights abuses (but) serious problems remained," it said. It mentioned mistreatment of detainees, detention of prisoners without charge and lack of due process, and said no human rights violator has been brought to trial.

"Nor has the Kuwaiti government moved to reduce restrictions on freedom of assembly and speech and on the right of citizens to change their government," the department said. However, the ruling Al Sabah family announced the first assembly elections since 1986 for next October, it noted.

Kuwait's constitution prohibits torture but vigilantes and security personnel beat, burned, electrically shocked, sexually abused and psychologically harassed detainees in the post-liberation period, the State Department said.

It estimated that 45-50 Palestinians or other expatriates were fatally tortured after liberation and by September 50,000 to 70,000 of about 120,000 Palestinians living in Kuwait had left the country.

It said the government reserves an arbitrary right to expel non-citizens and Kuwaiti firms were reluctant to continue employing anyone associated with Arab countries or leaders that backed Iraq.

84 Iraqis seek asylum in Spain

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spanish authorities are considering political asylum requests by 84 Iraqis who arrived from Jordan in an attempt to flee hardships inside their country.

Foreign ministry spokesman Juan Lena confirmed a report in leading Spanish daily El Pais that the asylum seekers arrived Saturday on a flight from Amman.

About 20 Iraqis — all males over 15 — prepared to spend their second night in an arrivals lounge at Madrid's Barajas airport, Spanish national radio (RNE) said.

The remaining asylum seekers, including about 30 children, were staying with family and other sponsors in Spain after receiving permission from police, RNE said.

"The only thing I know is that they're here," Mr. Lena said. "Naturally their case will be studied and a decision will be made."

Attempts to speak with the Iraqis at the airport were unsuccessful. Police there refused to confirm or deny that the asylum seekers were there and would not allow access to the arrivals lounge.

But an unidentified Iraqi living in Madrid who went to the airport to search for relatives told RNE: "The situation in Iraq is untenable. It's just terrible."

Iraq's 17 million people are growing increasingly restless with hardships stemming from international economic sanctions and massive destruction of the country's infrastructure during the Gulf war.

The road to Amman is Iraq's only co...it to the outside world as the U.N-imposed sanctions have severed international air links.

Stormin' Norman criticises peers

VENICE, Italy (R) — Gulf war commander General "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf has criticised U.S. politicians for allegedly interfering in the war against Iraq and branded the Pentagon "a nest of arse-lickers," a conference spokesman said.

He said the retired general made the remarks during a brief visit to Venice, where he addressed a business conference on Saturday on organising supplies to the allied forces, who drove Iraq's army out of Kuwait nearly a year ago.

The spokesman said the general had told organisers of the conference, held behind closed doors, that the Pentagon was "a nest of waverers, of arse-lickers."

The burly general, known as "the bear" has in the past avoided answering questions on whether he thought politicians had made a mistake in halting the Gulf war with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein still in power.

Algerian police arrest more imams, FIS claims 3 killed

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Security forces have arrested three more preachers in Algeria's crackdown on the use of mosques for political ends, the national gendarmery said on Sunday.

Some 30 imams have already been detained in the authorities' battle against the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) use of mosques to challenge their authority and issue instructions to militants in pursuit of an Islamic state.

The Algerian news agency APS, citing the para-military force headquarters, said some people arrested had "attacked qualified imams who for several years had preached in the mosques."

Local newspapers said FIS militants chanting slogans had silenced the imam in one mosque in Ain Defla, southwest of Algiers, and for the first time Friday prayers had not been performed there.

Mohammad Boudiaf, head of Algeria's five-man presidency, sworn in last month, has pledged the country will become a "state of law."

APS said that in a joint interview with the agency and television to be broadcast on Monday, Mr. Boudiaf repeated the state's determination to reestablish its authority and for the law to be respected by everyone.

He stressed, however, the need to continue the democratic process and impose no restrictions on the action of Algeria's political parties.

Algerian commentators forecast after the presidency, the high council of state, took over that the FIS would be banned.

But foreign diplomats and other observers said on Sunday this appeared less certain now. The authorities appeared to be using a strategy of "legal erosion"



Sidahmad Ghazali to dismantle the FIS network of propaganda and power built up through mosques and local authorities over the past two or three years.

Also Sunday police fired teargas to disperse a crowd protesting the appearance of a Muslim fundamentalist before a court, the official APS news agency reported.

Three people were arrested Saturday for hurling rocks at police outside the courthouse at Jijel, 300 kilometres east of Algiers, the agency said, without stating the size of the crowd.

Inside, an unidentified militant member of the Islamic Salvation Front was charged with interfering with police officers and violating a new law prohibiting political activities from mosques. He was ordered held in custody pending trial.

An Islamic Salvation Front newspaper reported Sunday that three people were killed in clashes Wednesday between security forces and stone-throwing mobs in Bachdjarrh, an Algiers suburb.

The Weekly El Mouinoud

identified the dead only as an old woman, a young girl and a young man. It did not specify the cause of their deaths.

Security forces fired several volleys of warning shots to disperse the crowds at Bachdjarrh, and admit that a 22-year-old man died and eight people were wounded by gunfire.

The Bachdjarrh clashes occurred when police tried to arrest two fundamentalist imams, witnesses said.

They set the stage for clashes around Algiers during Friday prayers that the fundamentalists claimed left five people dead.

State radio, citing sources with France's state-owned Bank Credit Lyonnais, reported that refinancing of Algeria's debt has been postponed from last Friday until Feb. 14.

Credit Lyonnais heads a seven-bank consortium involved in the debt refinancing. One of them, American Trust Bank, has so far refused to join the agreement, the radio said. It did not say why.

The refinancing was expected to amount to \$1.5 billion over a period of eight years, instead of two years, the radio said.

The Salvation Front claims that two infants were asphyxiated by tear gas among four people Friday outside a mosque in Laghouat, south of Algiers.

8 soldiers killed in accident

Eight young soldiers were killed and many injured in a road accident near the far south Algerian town of Tamanrasset last week, the Algerian news agency said Sunday. It said they were in a lorry which overturned for no apparent reason on Thursday near the Saharan desert town, some 1,970 km south of the capital.

Abdul Shafi wants balance between Jewish, Arab rights

By Aliya Fisher
The Associated Press

RAMAT GAN, Israel — The chief Palestinian peace negotiator said Sunday he was "not against" Jewish immigration as long as Israel recognised the rights of Arabs who became refugees with the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, a Gaza Strip physician who heads the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-backed peace talks, made the comment in a rare speech to an Israeli group.

He said he would raise the refugee issue during the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which began Oct. 30 in Madrid, Spain, and are in recess after two sessions in Washington.

Palestinians and Arab states have repeatedly criticised the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, seeing the newcomers as intruders on the land Palestinians dispute with Israel.

Israeli law encourages the "in-gathering" of Jews but does not allow for the return of thousands of Palestinians who fled or were forced to leave in 1948.

Dr. Abdul Shafi told a meeting of the Socialist Mapam Party that Palestinians would be more accepting of Jewish immigration if Israel reciprocated by recognising their rights.

"I wish to say a word about the immigration of Russian Jews," Dr. Abdul Shafi said, referring to the arrival of some 350,000 Soviet Jews since 1989.

"I wish to observe that we are not against implementing a human rights principle to safeguard freedom of movement for anybody," he said. "But if implementing such a right means encouragement or denial of other peoples' rights, then that makes a mockery of human rights."

He later told reporters he expected Israel to give equal

consideration to Palestinians ousted from their homes in 1948, either through compensation or by allowing them to return.

"I am not challenging the right of Jews to immigrate... but I certainly want, by the same measure, the rights of the Palestinian refugees... to be addressed in turn," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

According to United Nations figures, at least 700,000 Palestinians fled or were driven out of Palestine with the creation of the Jewish state. An additional 300,000 left the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 Middle East war and have not been allowed to return.

The numbers abroad has swelled, and today an estimated 3.5 million Palestinians live outside Palestine.

Dr. Abdul Shafi spoke to 1,100 supporters of the leftist Mapam Party, which is meeting to debate a platform and

choose candidates for Israel's national election.

The elections are expected to be scheduled for June 23 in a parliament vote later this week. They are being moved forward from November because two ultra-right parties withdrew their support from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ruling coalition over the peace talks, eliminating his majority in parliament.

Mapam is a Socialist party whose leaders call for dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and for ending war-won land to the Arabs for peace. Israel considers the PLO a terrorist group and refuses to negotiate with it.

Palestinian fears over the land have been further fuelled by a massive Israeli building campaign designed to move more Jewish settlers to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The territories, home to 1.7



Haidar Abdul Shafi

million Palestinians, were occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. There currently are 115,000 Jewish settlers there, and construction under way could accommodate about 40,000 more.

Dr. Abdul Shafi urged a halt to settlement construction, saying it was "an essential prerequisite to the integrity of the negotiations."

The United States has called the settlements an obstacle to peace and reportedly has asked Israel to freeze construction as a condition for granting \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help absorb the Soviet immigrants.

Mounting death toll in Turkey's winter disaster

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — At least 107 people, mostly soldiers, were killed Saturday and about 260 others remained buried under avalanches in Turkey's Kurdish dominated southeastern provinces hit by a savage winter, media reports said Sunday.

The state radio said so far the bodies of 96 soldiers and 11 civilians had been pulled out from crushed outposts or houses as blizzards and blocked roads hampered rescue work.

Heaviest casualties occurred in the Gormec village in Sirmak province bordering Iraq where an avalanche buried all the 35 houses and a nearby military police outpost.

Bodies of 71 soldiers were so far pulled from the crushed outpost while 56 were rescued, local officials said. Eighty other soldiers reportedly remained buried.

Of Gormec's 258 inhabitants, about 80 were believed to have been in neighbouring villages when the disaster struck, but the rest were buried under snow. At least five houses were pulverised, reports said.

At least 23 other soldiers died early Saturday when another avalanche smashed an outpost at Tuncpınar village in neighbouring Siirt province. Nine soldiers were still dug in while 13 were rescued alive.

Two more soldiers, returning

from sentry duty were crushed by a snowslide at Uludere in Sirmak province. Five people were killed in Alkemere village and three each in Dolusakim and Halenze villages.

Blizzards prevented helicopters from ferrying supplies and rescue personnel while heavy snow, piling up to three metres, blocked the roads and hundreds of villages were cut off in the region for the past three days, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said.

Two U.S. helicopters sent on Saturday by an allied task force deployed at the Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey had to return because of the weather. A C-130

military transport plane, however, was sent to the provincial centre of Diyarbakir with medical supplies and rescue personnel.

Turkish Red Crescent Association announced 100 tents and 500 blankets had been dispatched to Gormec as initial relief.

Premier Suleyman Demirel was expected to arrive at the disaster area on Sunday, having cut short talks with international statesmen and business leaders at Davos, Switzerland.

Fresh snowfall was predicted for the coming days in the rugged area where sub-zero temperatures prevailed day and night and hundreds of villages and several provincial centres were cut off.

Afghan peace hopes brighten despite hardliners

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's peace train is picking up momentum following Pakistan's decision to back all-party talks and despite howls of rage from guerrilla hardliners unlikely to derail it.

After months of edging towards outright support for a United Nations-brokered settlement while continuing to back military action by the Afghan Mujahideen, Pakistan took the plunge last week and declared the U.N. plan the only way forward.

Hardliners among the Islamic guerrillas based in Pakistan and some field commanders responded angrily at what they saw as an international conspiracy to deny them power in Kabul.

But with most sources of arms and money largely dried up and their ability to wage war severely curtailed, the reactionists find themselves increasingly isolated.

"It is another bucket of cold water over the Mujahideen," a Western diplomat said on Sunday. "It has weakened the position of the fundamentalists because they will not be able to count on the support of Pakistan."

Pakistan's State Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju warned the reactionists last week that no group would be allowed to hold the peace process hostage.

He spelled out for the first time that Pakistan had abandoned attempts to forge a credible alternative to the Kabul government from among the divided Mujahideen and would try to persuade all guerrilla groups to join U.N. peace talks.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said last week he believed the time was ripe to promote a comprehensive peace

settlement to the 13-year-old war and sent his special envoy Benon Sevan back to the region to set the groundwork.

He wants all sides to agree on 150 people from the Mujahideen, Kabul and neutral Afghans living mostly in Europe and North America who could talk about forming an interim government to take power, halt the war and hold elections.

The Mujahideen resolutely refuses to sit down with Afghan President Najibullah and key aides they blame for more than 1.5 million deaths during the war.

Najibullah told Sevan in September he would not insist on taking part in the talks personally as long as acceptable figures from Kabul were there.

But getting the Mujahideen to agree to talk publicly with any senior official of the ruling Watan (homeland) Party might be

rough, although they are happy to meet in secret.

Sevan, who goes to the north-western city of Peshawar on Monday to meet Mujahideen leaders before heading for Kabul, is trying to suck the hardliners in by removing any excuses they could use for refusing to take part.

But officials closely associated with the process caution that he faces a tough job. "It is not going to be 100 per cent," said one. "The point is to neutralise them so that they do not become problem-makers."

Sevan's most important target is Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the powerful leader of Hezb-i-Islami, credited with being one of the wildest guerrilla politicians.

But even if a peace settlement is signed, few expect the fighting to stop with the country fragmented into small fiefdoms armed with modern weapons.

Greek Cypriot politicians denounce agreement

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Greek Cypriot politicians on Sunday denounced an agreement by the Greek and Turkish prime ministers envisaging the signing of a friendship pact.

Separate statements by leaders of the four main parties said such a pact was incomprehensible while the Turkish occupation of North Cyprus continued.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel of Turkey and Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece agreed Saturday to work for the improvement of relations and the eventual signing of a friendship and cooperation pact.

The announcement was made after a two-hour meeting in Davos, Switzerland, where they attended the World Economic Forum.

"Under no circumstances can Greece sign a friendship treaty with Turkey if there is no Cyprus settlement including the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops from Cyprus," said Glafcos Clerides, the leader of the right-wing Democratic Rally, the largest party on the island.

Dimitris Christofias, the leader of the Communist Akel, the second-largest faction, echoed Clerides' statement. He added that "Turkey must move from words to deeds, by agreeing to a settlement based on the United Nations resolutions."

Former President Spyros Kyprianou, leader of the centrist Democratic Party, said: "It is incomprehensible for Greece to sign a friendship treaty with Turkey, while part of Cyprus remains

under Turkish occupation." The Davos communiqué "is the saddest moment of contemporary Greek history," said Vassos Lyssarides, the leader of the Socialist Party, Edeko.

"Greece is extending a hand of friendship to Turkey while Turkish troops continue to occupy North Cyprus and while Ankara continues to reject the U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding its withdrawal," he added.

The Davos communiqué said the two leaders reviewed the Cyprus problem and noted that "both sides shared the objective of an early negotiated settlement which would be just and lasting." They also supported an effort by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros

Boutros-Ghali to convene an international summit, attended by Greece, Turkey and the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides, to discuss a Cyprus settlement.

The East Mediterranean island has been unofficially partitioned since a 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation of the Northern part. Turkey maintains that its 35,000 troops are necessary to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority against the Greek Cypriot majority.

The U.N. resolutions also demand the withdrawal of 50,000 mainland settlers brought to Cyprus after the invasion, and the abrogation of a unilateral proclamation of a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, recognised only by Turkey.

Non-aligned ministers to chart post-cold war role

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — Non-aligned foreign ministers meet in the Cypriot resort of Larnaca this week to chart a new role for their movement in a post-cold war world dominated by one super-power.

The movement was founded in the 1950s at the height of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union as a grouping of mainly Third World countries not aligned to either super-power.

In the first such meeting since the Soviet Union collapsed, the foreign ministers meeting on Monday and Tuesday desperately need to carve out a new role for the movement, diplomats said.

"Let us not forget that 102 countries are members," Andreas Mavromatis, Cyprus' permanent representative to the United Nations, said in Nicosia last week. "So you can see how many billion people we are talking about."

Some 20 foreign ministers, including those from founder members Egypt and India, and 150 delegates from 46 countries are expected in Larnaca, an official Cypriot statement said.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) failed to play an active part during the Gulf war and the break-up of the Soviet Union. It lacks strong leadership because of the civil war in Yugoslavia, the poison chairman.

"Yugoslavia's chairmanship in my opinion lasted a few months, and then the internal disintegration of the country began, as a result of which it (NAM) did not have leadership," Mavromatis, a delegate at the talks in Larnaca, said.

Yugoslavia's top delegate in Larnaca will be assistant federal secretary of foreign affairs, Novak Pribicevic.

Yugoslavia hopes to play an active part in the NAM and insists the nation will continue to exist as an international identity until a peaceful solution is reached, a diplomat said.

Open war for control in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — "Open war" for control of Algerian mosques and a wave of arrests of Islamic fundamentalists and preachers show that compromise can no longer solve the country's political crisis, diplomats and commentators said on Sunday.

Bloody clashes after Friday prayers and the appearance in court of scores of Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) militants at the weekend have set the scene for a power struggle in earnest.

"The direction is clear. The authorities are tightening the screw, applying considerable pressure on the FIS," said one Western diplomat.

Algerian commentator Idir Benyounes said the possibility of dialogue died when an unfinished general election was cancelled last month. It robbed the FIS of almost certain parliamentary power and of a chance to change Algeria into an Islamic state.

"The land of the clandestine is well enough known to Islamic militants," he wrote at the weekend, recalling also that the "concept of martyrs" fed all religious movements.

"Black Fridays" — as authorities enforce a ban on politics in mosques, whose network the FIS has effectively used for so long — seem certain to continue, said El Watan newspaper.

"Nothing indicates that this spir-

al of violence will end in the immediate future as the two protagonists indulge in a cruel and painful battle of the mosques," it said on Sunday.

The latest unofficial tally shows 132 people arrested after prayers last Friday, when some 30 people were wounded in clashes in FIS strongholds like Bab El Oued in Algiers.

About 30 imams (preachers) were detained, though at least one escaped arrest for subversive preaching by donning a black robe and vanishing amid a group of women. He and others are being hunted.

Diplomats point out that Algerian officials now speak less of banning the FIS, seen as a fast option when the new five-man presidency was sworn in last month.

A ban could bring adverse reaction in Western democracies whose financial backing Algeria badly needs.

Both Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali and Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi made soothing statements abroad this weekend.

Ghazali in Switzerland emphasised the crackdown was to end "laxity" in enforcing the law and was not a fundamental change.

But he also warned that any part not playing by the rules of

the democratic game would be banned.

Ibrahim, in an interview in an Italian paper, spoke of presidential elections, a change in the constitution through a referendum, and later a return to the electoral process.

Undermining foreign confidence in Algeria is seen as the possible motive for a bomb attack on the U.S. embassy last week.

"It could be aimed at scaring foreigners into thinking it is not safe, and scuttling any plans of foreign firms to invest here," said one diplomat.

No group has claimed responsibility for the home-made device which caused no casualties but brought heavy security round the embassy on the heights of the capital.

The arrest of FIS leaders appears to have left it rudderless, with no influential figure either available or prepared to risk arrest by signing its statements.

It has issued no communiqué since Rabah Kebir was arrested last Tuesday, minutes after signing a defiant challenge to the authorities. But its militants have kept careful tally of the mosque battle toll.

Another signal was the appearance of an unsigned "fatwa" or ruling on religious law, circulating in Algiers.

Al Akhbar editor slams Jalloud for insulting Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The editor of a leading newspaper slammed a top Libyan official for insulting Egypt and warned that this could halt Egyptian mediation in solving Libya's crisis with the West over the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland killing 270 people.

France has charged four Libyans with the 1989 explosion of a UTA jet in Africa that left 170 people dead.

A U.N. Security Council resolution passed earlier this year urges Libya to extradite the bombing suspects. But Libya denies any involvement in the attacks and refuses to surrender the men. It says its laws forbid

States, Britain and France and lead to a new catastrophe in the region.

Britain and the United States have charged two Libyans they identified as intelligence officers in the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland killing 270 people.

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handing over Libyans to foreign authorities and offered to host a tribunal headed by a Western judge.

Dwidar said Maj. Jalloud, the right hand man of Col. Muammar Qadhafi, is responsible for the mistreatment of Egyptians entering Libya at the border.

The editor said until now he had withheld from mentioning Maj. Jalloud's name hoping that Col. Qadhafi "would put an end to this recklessness."

Dwidar also said Maj. Jalloud insulted Egypt when he accused all countries that participated in the multilateral Middle East peace talks in Moscow this week of treason.

Political debate heats up in Kuwait

By Mariam Isa
Reuters

KUWAIT — Political debate has heated up in Kuwait as candidates for the first parliamentary elections in seven years launch an early drive to win public support.

Scores of Kuwaitis — including a few women — have already announced their intention to contest October elections for the national assembly, which the government dissolved in 1986.

Kuwaiti intellectuals have invited U.S. politicians to advise them on campaign techniques and public lobbying.

They also want international observers to monitor the polls, which were promised by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, under strong domestic and foreign pressure after the United States and its allies liberated the emirate last February.

Would-be parliamentarians are expected to flock on Sunday to an election seminar organised by Kuwait university's graduate society and given by members of the private Washington-based Republican Institute for International Affairs.

To raise public awareness of election issues, leading members of Kuwait's seven opposi-

tion groups have begun holding joint diwanis — traditional forums for political discussion.

Newspapers are full of gossip about candidates and election issues. Since government censorship was lifted in January they have even begun publishing interviews with pro-democracy leaders like former speaker of parliament Ahmad Saadoun.

They have also carried strong statements attacking the opposition from members of Kuwait's partially elected national council, a toothless body reinstated by the government after liberation from Iraqi occupation last February.

Government supporters have accused opponents of drafting a widely circulated leaflet which said Kuwaiti human rights abuses were worse than those committed by the Iraqi occupation forces.

The seven groups, which range from Muslim fundamentalists to liberal progressives, said they had nothing to do with it.

Abdullah Nibari, head of the newly formed Kuwait democratic forum, told Reuters he suspected government agents were behind the leaflet. The strength of the official campaign showed they were starting to feel insecure, he said.

"Some people think the general atmosphere is turning in our favour — the government media noise recently has been too loud, too vicious," he said.

Since liberation the government had tried to appease public criticism by writing off consumer loans worth billions of dollars, spending billion more on compensation, and announcing plans to raise salaries.

It also accuses opposition leaders of sowing dissent in Kuwait at a time when national unity is crucial.

"To a big extent the government has succeeded... it will make our job more difficult," Ahmad Bager, head of the fundamentalist Islamic Alliance, told Reuters.

"But I think people will take and ask for more. They appreciate more money but still want parliament," he said.

Opposition groups are united in their main demands. They want fair elections without interference from official media manipulation and vote-buying by pro-government candidates.

They demand separation of the posts of crown prince and prime minister — traditionally held by the same member of the ruling Al Sabah family —

and an end to domination of key cabinet posts by Al Sabah members.

"We hope they (the royal family) will understand the time is over for monopoly by any one family, sect or tribe," said Isa Shaheen, spokesman for the Islamic Constitutional Movement.

"There should be no more suspicion of the people of Kuwait, who proved their loyalty during the Iraqi occupation," he said.

Opposition leaders say at least half the cabinet should be drawn from parliament to give it a real role in decision-making.

They want full disclosure of government finances, complete press freedom, the repeal of laws against trade unions and political parties, and voting rights — now granted to only 15 per cent of Kuwait's estimated 600,000 nationals — to be extended to include naturalised Kuwaitis and their offspring.

With the exception of the fundamentalist Islamic Alliance, they also want women to be allowed to vote.

The seven groups plan to hold weekly public meetings until October. They have also organised a people's congress in March to present their goals to the public.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Baghdad authorities crack down on wine and song

BAGHDAD (R) — The Baghdad authorities are cracking down on drinking and singing in the city of the thousand and one nights. Under plans reported on Sunday by Al Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, singing in public restaurants will be banned and the sale of alcohol restricted to "certain areas and streets." No details of the areas were given. Unlike some Arab countries, Iraq has never imposed a blanket ban on alcohol. The nightlife of Baghdad, where the thousand and one nights is set, is famous throughout the Middle East. Al Thawra complained that "a great number of Baghdad restaurants have turned into nightclubs as owners organise singing and dancing parties in them." No more, if Baghdad municipality has its way. Its new rules would make singing the exclusive preserve of nightclubs and would set up anti-singing vigilante squads. "Joint committees comprising members from the people's councils and the Baghdad municipality will supervise restaurants, hotels and bars to see that they adhere to these measures," Al Thawra reported. People's councils are elected local bodies usually dominated by conservative figures. The new measures reflect top-level displeasure with licentious behaviour in a country where international trade sanctions and the after-effects of the Gulf war have impoverished people on average incomes. Last month, Saddam Hussein imposed a \$320,000 fine on an Iraqi businessman reported to have thrown a generous cheque at the feet of a bellydancer whose performance enthralled him. And when Saddam's half-brother, Wathban Ibrahim Al Hassan, became interior minister on Nov. 13, he vowed to end "degrading nocturnal practices."

Gulf university to remain open despite problems

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — The Bahrain-based Arabian Gulf University will remain open despite cash problems, officials said on Sunday. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar have yet to pay their dues to the university despite an appeal by leaders

at the Kuwait summit in December of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Gulf business sources said. The other owners are Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman. Four foreign contractors, which helped build the campus, are suing the university for \$60 million in interest and principal. The university opened to great fanfare in 1988 as a prime example of Gulf cooperation. The contractors said on Sunday they had yet to receive any payment for their work. The case has been a major embarrassment to the oil state. of the Gulf but officials are reluctant to point the finger at those members which had failed to pay their debts. The sources said the UAE owed 80 million Saudi riyals (\$21 million) and had not paid anything since 1988. There was no figure for Qatar which the sources say stopped payments early in 1989. "We can do nothing but wait for those countries that have yet to fulfil their commitments," one Gulf official said. "But the Arabian Gulf University will continue despite the financial crisis." Last year, the university stopped taking new students and closed its medical faculty.

Court acquits Germans for urging soldiers not to fight Gulf war

BONN (R) — A German court, in the second such case in two days, on Friday acquitted five peace activists charged with urging soldiers to desert during the Gulf crisis. The Bonn regional court overturned an earlier judgement against the five members of the pacifist Greens Party one day after another court acquitted four peace activists on similar charges. The Greens were freed after the court decided it could not prove that they believed their call could induce soldiers to desert, a court spokeswoman said. In autumn 1990, shortly after the Gulf crisis began, the Greens distributed 250,000 leaflets saying: "Don't let yourselves become cannon fodder for a war in the Gulf or anywhere." The Greens said in a statement the court accepted that the appeal was published at a time when the German government was discussing a change in the constitution and considering sending troops to the Gulf.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Monde Sans Frontières
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hey Dad
21:00 Capital City
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Elite

PRAYER TIMES

05:06 Fajr
06:20 Sunrise
11:49 Dhuhr
14:47 Asr
17:12 Maghreb
18:32 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternesian Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy and scattered showers of rain are expected during the day. In the evening, a cold front accompanying a depression centred north of Egypt will affect the Kingdom. Therefore, it will be rainy and snow is expected in hilly areas. Winds will be southerly fresh. In the evening, it will be partly cloudy and scattered showers of rain will fall. Winds will be southerly fresh and sea calm.
Min./Max. temp. Amman 2 / 6

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba 5 / 17
Downtown 2 / 9
Jordan Valley 6 / 14
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 6, Agaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 98 per cent, Agaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Nabawi 693925
Dr. Khalid Abdo 795392
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115
Dr. Ararat Al Ashbah 672587
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Azma pharmacy 670255
Nawrokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 676660

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Shugairi (—)

Al Sharaa pharmacy 275825
ZARQA:
Dr. Khalid Abu Hussein (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630541
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 629800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 677012
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 621001
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664114
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661446
Indian, Al-Muasher 7771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111126
Army, Marika 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)083323
Zarga National Hospital (09)00560
Im Sana Hospital (09)98732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Im Al Nafesa Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

Minister calls for Arab cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thawqan Hindawi urged Arab intellectuals and educationists to promote education in the Arab World and to serve as a catalyst in improving relations among Arab countries.

Addressing a group of cultural attaches at Arab embassies in Amman, the minister said that Arab intellectuals can lead the process of cooperation and coordination in cultural affairs and can also expand their field of work to help their countries improve their relations in cultural and educational fields. By deepening Arab and Islamic values and promoting Arab culture, intellectuals can bolster solidarity among Arab states, said Mr. Hindawi.

The minister noted that many current problems facing Arab countries stem from ill-planning and lack of joint coordination and cooperation among Arab states.

In referring to Jordan's educational development plans, the minister noted that the Kingdom's experiments benefited Arab states, which also offered expertise to Jordan and that the interchanges were focused on teacher training, school administration and examinations.

Mr. Hindawi also said that Jordan was willing to offer any expertise in education-related matters, noting that Jordan was willing to continue strengthening bridges of cooperation with the Arab World.

Those present were cultural attaches of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and Algeria.

Queen thanks French official for Minitel system, calls for further increasing cooperation

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — French Minister of Tourism Jean Michel Baylet and his delegation left Amman Sunday after a two-day visit to the Kingdom aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the field of tourism.

Prior to his departure from Marka Airport the minister met with Her Majesty Queen Noor and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Her Majesty thanked the minister for the advanced computerised information system, Minitel, that France donated to Jordan as part of an agreement signed between the two countries in 1988. Her Majesty also stressed the need for further French-Jordanian cooperation in the fields of tourism and culture through the exchange of expertise and other joint programmes.

During his meeting with the prime minister, the two sides discussed the current relationship between the two countries and called for further future cooperation.

The minister's visit came in response to an invitation extended by the Jordanian government. During his brief visit to the Kingdom, the two sides signed an agreement that paves the way for further cooperation between the two countries in the field of tourism.

"We have to encourage French and European tourists to come to Jordan," said the minister at a press conference held at the airport. The minister thanked the Ministry of Tourism for arranging his two-day visit and praised the quality of work in the field of tourism despite economic difficulties faced by the Kingdom in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

"This is my first visit to the Kingdom and what struck me is the high quality of things despite the weak economic situation," the minister said. "What also struck me is the sincerity, hospitality and the sense of moderation of people here."

Mr. Baylet said he was impressed by Jordan's willingness to open up in order to improve its tourism sector and pointed out the need to market Jordan's touristic image in Europe, especially France.

"I was very impressed to see the amount of freedom in transportation, and this is a very important factor for having a successful touristic policy," Mr. Baylet said.

The French minister also lauded the democratic process in Jordan and said "democracy is a reality in this country."

Referring to a meeting between Jordanian and French businessmen and tourist experts, Mr. Baylet described the talks as "fruitful." The minister also said that many members in his delegation, experts in the field of tourism, expressed eagerness to invest in the Kingdom in the near future.

According to Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat one project that is currently under study includes building a resort in the city of Aqaba through a joint Jordanian-French venture.



Her Majesty Queen Noor meets with French Minister of Tourism Jean Michel Baylet Sunday before his departure (Petra photo)

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"This resort will be open to all people, Jordanians and tourists alike," Mr. Hikmat said.

He added that the Ministry of Tourism was making concerted efforts to revive tourism to what it was like in 1989.

Mr. Hikmat said that in 1989, about 250,000 tourists from Europe and the United States visited the Kingdom, generating an income of around JD 350 million. In addition, close to 400,000 Arab tourists mainly from the Gulf came to Jordan.

Following his trip to Jordan, the French minister will proceed to Egypt for a two-day visit after which he will head home on Monday.

Hospital official denies reported AIDS death

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid Sunday categorically denied reports published in the local press about the death of a child as a result of being infected by the killer disease AIDS, noting that no AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) cases have been admitted to the hospital.

Hospital Director Dr. Abdul Hafiz Al Momani told the Jordan Times that the reports appearing in Al Rai and Sawt Al Shaab Arabic dailies were groundless. Hospital records show no existence of patients that were infected with the disease.

Both Sawt Al Shaab and Al Rai's dailies reported Sunday that a 10-year-old child had died in the past week suffering from AIDS. The report alleged that the boy, whose identity was withheld, contracted the disease from his mother who had died earlier.

"I was astonished to read the report in the local press because the hospital's records did

not show any AIDS cases or deaths resulting from this killer disease," Dr. Momani said.

He said that should there any AIDS cases appear in the Irbid region, the Health Ministry is the only authority which should be informed and it is only the ministry which is authorised to give information about AIDS cases in the Kingdom.

The Health Ministry last November revealed that the total number of AIDS cases in Jordan since 1986 had reached 66, 59 of whom were Jordanians. Of the Jordanians infected with the disease, 14 have already died, one of whom passed away in November of the past year.

The ministry released the report prior to the World AIDS Day 1991.

The Health Ministry report said that the spread of AIDS was controlled through strict monitoring of the blood transfusion process and through stringent precautionary measures including laboratory tests.

All blood banks in Jordan conduct tests on blood donors

to ensure that they are safe, especially if the donors had undergone surgical operations abroad, the report noted.

It said that Jordan was considered among the first few countries of the region to take precautionary measures against the spread of AIDS.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates, there are between eight and 10 million men, women and children around the world who are infected by this disease and that more than 5,000 are infected by AIDS daily.

The WHO has been issuing warnings of a dramatic increase in AIDS among women, noting that the virus, called HIV was rising fast.

The two dailies claimed that they received the information about the latest AIDS casualty from specialists working for the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) during a seminar that was recently held in Irbid.

The dailies' reporters said that the mother of the 10-year-old boy died of AIDS at the same hospital sometime earlier.

SSC pledges to continue work on national health insurance plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is going ahead with plans announced last November to provide health insurance services to all members of the public during 1992.

The affirmation came in a letter to Al Rai Arabic daily by the SSC Public Relations Department which stressed that the project was being implemented this year.

The letter noted that the SSC has set up a consultative committee to take charge of the project and it was hoped that practical steps towards the implementation of the scheme will be taken soon.

The SSC's former director general, Mohammad Saqqaf, had announced that the health scheme would benefit all institutions and their employees. The

SSC said that its advisory committee has been studying the application of a national health scheme and has been consulting with various international insurance firms and at least one local firm.

The letter was sent to the daily in reply to a query about the whole scheme raised by a member of the co-advisory committee, Dr. Abdul Abdul Rahim Maltas, who expressed fear that with the appointment of Mr. Saqqaf as minister of supply, the whole scheme would be shelved.

According to SSC officials, measures connected with this project started earlier last year and consultations had been going on with various health organisations, trade unions and other institutions which helped prepare the basic elements of the plan.

The 12-year-old SSC now provides services to 613,000 beneficiaries whose savings with the SSC now stand at JD 416 million, most of which is invested in major income-generating projects and development schemes.

According to Mr. Saqqaf, the comprehensive national health scheme could start in 1992 provided final arrangements had been made concerning finances. In announcing the project last November, the SSC said that it was designed to help limited income groups to cope with the increasing costs of medical services in the country.

The advisory committee, which approved the plan's version involved representatives of the Health Ministry, the Jordan Medical Association and senior SSC officials.

Rescue teams remain on alert as more snow is expected, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior remains on full alert in view of the prevailing weather conditions and its central operations room is ready to respond to any call for help, according to Interior Minister Jawdat Al Sbour.

The minister was speaking Sunday as the Meteorology Department reported that another snowstorm was to affect Jordan today and Tuesday.

Rescue and first aid teams are being kept on alert around the

clock to deal with any emergency resulting from the upcoming storm, he said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The snowstorm which has just ended witnessed coordinated efforts on the part of civil and military services to deal with problems that arose. Provincial governors supervised rescue and relief operations and reopening of roads in various regions, the minister said.

Civil defence and security de-

partment teams are standing by backed by army helicopters to provide relief and rescue services in various regions while teams from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), have been put on alert to deal with any failure in power supplies, the minister said.

Unlike the last storm, the Department of Meteorology said that snow will fall on areas lower than 850 metres high, affecting Sweileh, Jubeiha and other areas of western Amman along with hilly regions.

State of children conference delayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national conference to address the state of children in Jordan that had been scheduled for Tuesday has been postponed until Saturday because of the prevailing weather conditions.

The Meteorology Department has said that a low depression was forming over Cyprus Monday and was expected to affect Jordan and other regions east of the Mediterranean, bringing in yet another snowstorm and more heavy rain and high winds.

The conference organised under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor is expected to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, according to an announcement late Saturday. It said that the conference was organised by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as a direct response by Jordan to the U.N. Summit for Children held in September of 1990.

The two-day conference, the first of its kind in the country is

expected to hammer out a strategy of work for Jordanian children.

The conference will discuss five working papers prepared by Jordanian experts. The papers cover the areas of health, education, environment, special groups and the role of information and the media in highlighting children's causes and advancing their welfare.

The conference is held in implementation of a recommendation adopted by the World Summit for Children, which was held on Sept. 29 and 30, 1990. Her Majesty Queen Noor headed the Jordanian delegation to the summit, which came up with a world declaration on child survival, protection and development.

The summit adopted a broad series of goals to be implemented in the 1990s. The goals included inter alia a reduction by one half of the under age of five mortality rate, halving maternal mortality, providing basic education to all children, eradicating polio by 1995 and making family planning services accessible to all couples.

Social workers honoured for work in community centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Social workers affiliated to community centres set up by the Urban Development Department (UDD) were honoured Sunday at a ceremony held at the Marka Community Centre and attended by UDD Director Youssef Hiyasat.

In each of its housing projects, the UDD has established a community centre offering various activities and services to the local community.

The ceremony included national dances and an exhibition displaying products of the local community as well as handicrafts. Mr. Hiyasat distributed awards and shields to those with distinguished services to the community through the centres. He also delivered a speech underlining the importance of development schemes and housing projects for limited-income groups, noting

that the UDD was careful to provide housing plus the facilities for each local community.

UDD officials said that a large number of women have been involved in activities concerning local families and children and in carrying out small-sized income-generating projects and children's clubs.

The UDD is operating six of these community centres, catering to the needs of hundreds of children, said Mr. Hiyasat. He said that community centres have so far carried out 15 income-generating projects employing 500 local women and is running adult education and literary centres in cooperation with the Ministry of Education as well as health units for vaccination services to children and cultural programmes.

Customs official urges returnees to process cars

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal Sunday met with members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, representatives of customs clearance companies and merchants and reviewed with them the latest procedures which should be followed upon clearing cars belonging to Jordanians returning from Kuwait.

He explained to them that the new measures announced by the government are aimed at facilitating clearance through customs of such vehicles and to avoid delays at the customs offices.

He noted that some improvements were made to the Amman Customs Department to enable it to receive some 200 transactions, examine more than 200 cars a day and assess the amount of duties payable. He also pointed out that Jordanian returnees own some

16,000 cars, 9,000 of which have already been examined and 4,000 on which custom duties have been collected.

Mr. Jamal called on the returnees who have not so far cleared their cars to do so before the end of this month, noting that Feb. 29 is the deadline for clearing cars for 1981 models and above. He added that the Prime Minister's decision, passed on Jan. 25, fixed April 30 as a deadline for returnees who own cars, made in 1980 and before to rectify their situations.

RSS, ARA sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Sunday signed an agreement providing for a framework for future cooperation in technological and scientific fields.

Under the agreement, ARA recognises the RSS as an authority and consultant on matters related to ARA projects and scientific or technological work concerning pollution, water and other matters in view of the facilities it possesses like laboratories and its highly skilled workforce.

A statement following the signing of the agreement at the RSS said the agreement was designed to help the ARA carry on with its plans to achieve balanced development in the Aqaba region in light of the increased industrial, touristic and other activities along the coastal region.

The statement made it clear that the agreement will pave the way for other agreements on projects to be carried out by the RSS for the ARA.

The two-year agreement was signed by RSS President Dr. Hani Mulki and ARA President Bassam Oaqish, who later said that the RSS was playing a leading role in consultancy services in the Kingdom and the ARA was trying to benefit from such services to develop the Aqaba region in all aspects.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Mahmoud Al Obaidi at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Salma Al Aliq at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic play entitled "Galgamesh" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Sans toit ni loi" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation
And
The American Cultural Center
present
The American Senior Fulbright Scholar at
Yarmouk University
GENARO SANTORO
In a
Piano Recital



Saturday, Feb. 8, 1992 at 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre
In the programme pieces by: Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and others.
Tickets, for JD.4 each, are available at:
- The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026
- Babiche, Tel. 661322
- Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100
- American Cultural Center, Tel. 641520
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

SSC

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DX/2200	9 Pin 132 c 220 cps	325	390
THE BUSINESS			
DL/900	24 Pin 110 c 180 cps	360	
DL/1200	24 Pin 136 c 240 cps	480	520
THE FAST HEAVY DUTY			
DL/5600	24 Pin 136 c 500 cps	1300	1450

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تلکس ٢١١٢٢ - ص.ب ٩١١٢ - عمان - الاردن
Tel. 664221, Fax. 681557, Tlx. 21123 SPLSY JO, P.O.Box 9162 Amman - Jordan

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City on agenda

NOT LONG ago, Jordan appeared standing alone when it sought to place the issue of Jerusalem on the agenda of the then upcoming multilateral peace talks. Now Egypt has come out strongly in favour of the idea, as have the Palestinians, who demanded setting up an additional working group for that purpose.

Cairo's support for the proposal is both important and interesting. For one thing, Egypt occupies a special place in the international arena and its weight and clout in Washington and elsewhere cannot be easily brushed aside. In addition to that, Egypt is also the only Arab country with diplomatic relations with Israel, which has occupied and annexed the Holy City in utter defiance of the will of the international community and the host of U.N. Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem and the occupied territories. Accordingly what Egypt and the Palestinians now propose on the issue of Jerusalem has to be considered by the other major players in the peace process and supported by all those who care for its success.

But despite the effort, the Moscow multilateral talks ended in agreement on five principal committees covering issues ranging from water, economic development and environmental concerns to disarmament and refugee issues without any reference to Jerusalem. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker opposed the idea of dealing with Jerusalem concurrently with the other agreed upon regional issues for fear that the topic may jeopardise the deliberations on the other less controversial matters. In retrospect, this U.S. position which corresponds with that of Israel is not truly tenable for a variety of reasons.

First, Jerusalem is by definition a multilateral subject. Being holy to the three monotheistic religions and of deep concern and interest to many civilisations and cultures, there can be no doubt that if there is a pressing multilateral issue on the agenda of the multilateral peace negotiations it is Jerusalem. Second, delaying discussion and action on it would be tantamount to burying one's head in the sand. Would it not be much more effective to air out the international views on the issue here and now with a view to linking its consideration with the other situations that warrant a regional understanding? What better opportunity is there to resolve the case permanently and effectively than when it could be discussed in conjunction with other problems of the region? Leaving the case of Jerusalem in abeyance for possible resolution in isolation from other regional and international interests may end up making this very problem the cause celebre for negating everything agreed upon among the parties.

Most important of all, though, is the fact that Jerusalem now comprises one fifth of the entire West Bank. With this in mind, there is no effective way to discussing Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories and end its settlement programme other than to include the issue of Jerusalem in the talks. Therefore, there is a double cause to negotiate the entire issue of the Holy City on both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Jordan and other interested Arab countries, including the Arab Gulf states, notably Saudi Arabia, are called upon to support the inclusion of Jerusalem in both phases of the peace talks. Morocco's King Hassan II made an urgent appeal for an early resolution of the conflict over Jerusalem during the U.N. Security Council summit held at the end of January. What better venue to tackle the issue than the ongoing peace negotiations which are due to resume soon in Washington and other capitals of the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Sunday that the Americans and the British are trying to impose their hegemony on the world, including on Europe, China, Japan and the developing countries without learning from the lessons of history. The paper said that history tells us that Japan's cities were devastated by American nuclear bombs and the German factories and cities were razed to the ground in World War II. But, the paper said, in less than three decades, these two nations rose up again, building the strongest economies in the world and rivaling those countries that dealt them defeat in the war. With reference to the special U.N. summit attended by the leaders of the big powers, the paper said that the Americans and the British do not learn from history and believe that the whole world is a farmland where they enslave other nations, committing all sorts of atrocities under the umbrella of the so-called new world order. The big powers trying to impose hegemony on the world in general and the developing nations in particular can never achieve their end as long as the nations of the world possess the will and the determination to struggle, it said. Defeat imposed through wars can never force the vanquished to give up the struggle for salvation, progress and development, said the paper with reference to Iraq in the wake of the Gulf conflict. It said that the big powers can pursue the course of massing nations but can never overcome the will of masses determined to fight and survive.

COMMENTING on the same U.N. summit, a columnist in Al Dustour daily said it seems that the United Nations is being invaded by the United States and major European nations, and the summit could mark a turning point backwards or forwards. Taher Al Udwan said that nations of the world fear that such a summit could usher in a new era of colonialism as they remember the colonial era when Europe and America imposed their domination on the world's destiny. The long history of the United States, Britain and France does not give any glimpse of hope that the summit might usher in a new era to the advantage of the Third World but rather it shows an organised campaign on the part of old colonial powers to regain what they had lost earlier this century when nations achieved independence from foreign domination, said Udwan. The writer said the world is at a threshold of a new era and the Arabs and Muslims should unite to face all eventualities.

Weekly Political Pulse

The stakes are too high to stay uninvolved

The Moscow multilateral peace talks that ended Wednesday have given rise to the conviction that the U.S.-sponsored peace process regarding the Arab-Israeli conflicts is for all intents and purposes an unstoppable locomotive. The best evidence of this was the continuation of the peace parleys in the Russian capital without Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese delegations being present. Initially, it was thought that the Syrian-Lebanese boycott of the multi-party conference alone would have been enough to abort the regional peace efforts. That did not materialise. And when the Palestinian side gambled on having representations from East Jerusalem and the diaspora as an integral part of their delegation to the Moscow meeting and lost, there were added fears that without the primary party in the Arab-Israeli multifaceted disputes, the entire exercise would be doomed before it even got started. That also did not happen.

The Palestinian gambit on having a broader Palestinian representation as a sine qua non for their participation may also have been a carefully calculated move to oblige both the pro-Syrian factions within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the more moderate elements in it.

By appearing to be willing to take part in the regional peace negotiations, the Palestinians, perhaps, sought to drive home the point that they want to stay on the peace train even if their conditions for doing so had not totally been met. But by insisting on Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the diaspora to join their delegation to Moscow at a time when they knew beforehand that

such additions would close the Moscow doors for them, the Palestinians may have aspired at accommodating the Syrian position by ending up effectively boycotting the Moscow forum as the Syrians and Lebanese have done before them. By doing so, the Palestinian party ended up bolstering Damascus's stance on the multilateral efforts to resolve basic regional issues prior to registering meaningful achievements on the level of bilateral peace talks between Israel and the different Arab parties.

Yet, the Palestinian side ended up attaining something quite substantial from the Moscow talks. By "convincing" the two host countries, the U.S. and Russia, to accept Palestinians in the deliberations of at least one committee, i.e., the one dealing with refugee issues, the Palestinians have extricated a major concession from the participating countries that hitherto was simply not there. This could be just the beginning of the erosion of the de facto and de jure rejection of Palestinian representation from East Jerusalem and the diaspora for the purposes of the ongoing peace process. But this positive development brings up the question: Why this point about wider composition of the Palestinian delegation became such a hot issue in the first place? In retrospect, both the Palestinians and the Israelis made an issue out of this benign subject. From the Palestinian point of view, the Palestinian people could have been viewed as indivisible rather than made up of different "peoples." Had they been regarded by the Palestinian leadership as one people, no matter where they happen to reside, the contentious point about having Palestinians

from East Jerusalem and the diaspora would probably had never arisen. Of course, Israel suffered from essentially the same phobias and complexes that the Palestinian side has been suffering from and also ended up making this subject a major bone of contention that stood to derail the whole peace process. Now, at least, and in the wake of first round of multilateral discussions, this episode is gradually brought back to proper perspective after having been blown out of proportion for such a long time.

Also, all indications emanating from the Moscow gathering point to the conclusion that without the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian participation in the future work of the five major committees, established at the closing session of the Moscow meeting, there can be no real progress in addressing the issues of water, environment, disarmament, refugees and economic development. There is little doubt that the absentee parties will join the multilateral peace wagon sooner or later. For the time being, the ball seems to be in the court of the bilateral peace talks where the "recalcitrant" parties insist on seeing some progress before they jump once again on the moving multilateral peace locomotive. With many industrial countries now willing to pitch in the seemingly serious efforts to settle many simmering regional problems, the stakes for all the parties have gone higher than ever before. The main message remains this: The locomotive is moving and the parties better jump on it before they miss out on the goodies!

Council considers a new world order but mirrors the old one

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council summit extolled the new world order and post-cold war realities, but the council membership still mirrors the geopolitical status of the victors of World War II.

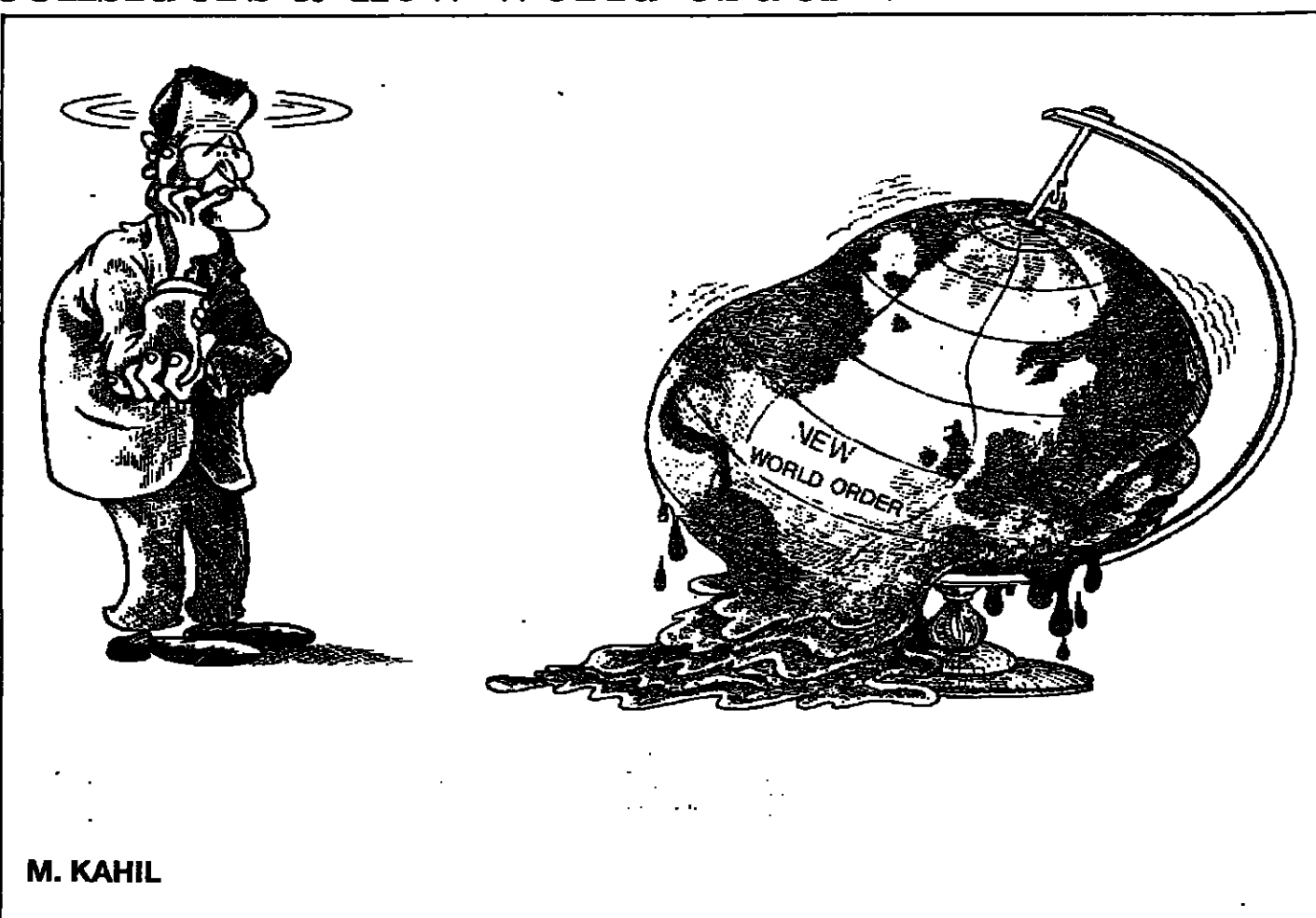
The council doesn't reflect the realities of 1992, such as the political and economic power of Germany and Japan and the emerging importance of Third World nations such as India, Brazil and Nigeria.

But the composition of the powerful 15-member council — which often makes decisions for the entire world body — is unlikely to change in the near future. Its five veto-wielding permanent members — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China — can block any challenge to their power.

British Prime Minister John Major, who proposed the summit and presided over it, told the U.S. television network ABC on Friday: "The U.N. is more successful today than it's been for many years past... it is really sensible to go down the byway of institutional change? I doubt it."

But Zimbabwe, India and Venezuela, all non-permanent members of the council, argued for the council's restructuring and expansion. Zimbabwe and Venezuela said the veto of the permanent five members was undemocratic and should be scrapped.

Zimbabwe's foreign minister, Nathan Shamuyirira, also expressed the resentment felt by many Third World nations that the "big five" run the show.



M. KAHIL

"The council cannot afford to shield itself from change at a time when all the other major organs of the United Nations are going through a process of reform and when new international circumstances call for readjustments."

Mr. Shamuyirira said. Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa made the case politely and indirectly for a permanent seat for Japan, now a non-permanent member, noting his nation's massive financial con-

tributions to the world body and its peacekeeping operations.

The seven other non-permanent members of the council, each with a two-year term, are Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Hungary,

Japan, and Morocco.

Germany has not yet pushed for its seat on the council, but any restructuring is considered likely to include a permanent German seat.

There have been suggestions

that the European Community be given a single permanent seat without a veto, either replacing Britain and France or in addition to them.

Any expansion of the council or changes in the veto would require an amendment of the U.N. Charter.

The 15 world leaders who attended the summit pledged in their final declaration to use diplomacy to prevent conflict, explore further uses of peacekeeping and dedicate themselves to arms control. But not a word was penned about changing the configuration of the council.

Zimbabwe argued that the increase in U.N. membership alone warrants expansion of the council.

In 1945, the council's original 11 members represented 20 per cent of the U.N. membership. Now — after being expanded to 15 members in the mid-1960s — it represents less than 10 per cent of the 166-nation General Assembly.

Europe is over-represented on the council, while Africa and Latin America do not have a single permanent member, Mr. Shamuyirira said.

He also noted that the veto has been used only rarely in recent years.

Earlier in the week, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said he expected an eventual expansion of the council "because I don't see any of the veto-wielders either giving up their memberships or their vetoes."

He added that any change would require a broad consensus in the council.

Agenda for a new order

The following article is a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) news feature.

AT a time when the political and economic order which has dominated the twentieth century is visibly dying, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has published a list of agenda items for the new world order that is struggling to be born.

"These suggestions stem from forty years experience of working in over a hundred countries with some of humanity's greatest problems," says UNICEF's Executive Director James Grant.

The suggestions are set out in UNICEF's State of the World's Children report for 1992. "Taken together," says Mr. Grant, "they add up to a proposal that ending the absolute poverty of one quarter of mankind — the more than one billion people who still live and die with preventable hunger, disease, and illiteracy — should rank alongside the related issue of preserving the peace and protecting the environment as priority items on the agenda of that new world order.

The 10 propositions are:

1. That a new world order should keep the promises of the World Summit for Children.

The goals agreed at the 1990 World Summit for Children included preventing four million child deaths a year, halving child malnutrition, ending diseases like polio and tetanus, ensuring a basic education for all children, and ensuring that all families have clean water and access to family planning. "That great promise to the world's children, should now be kept," says the report. At present, a quarter of a million young children are dying every week, and millions more are living on with malnutrition and almost permanent ill health. Half of this suffering, says UNICEF, is caused by five or six specific illnesses which can now

be prevented or treated at very low cost.

2. That the principle of "first call for children" should become an accepted ethic of a new world order.

Protecting the growing minds and bodies of young children, through the vulnerable early years, should have a first call on societies' resources, says the report. Most of the mental and physical development of the human being occurs at that time. So basic protection — including adequate nutrition, health care, and primary education — should be not just a priority but an absolute. "Children should be able to depend on that commitment in good times and in bad," says Mr. Grant.

At present, the principle is more honoured in the breach than the observance. In many poor countries, the debt crisis has been translated into rising levels of child malnutrition and falling levels of school enrolment. In many rich countries, rising affluence has been accompanied by a sharp increase in the proportion of children living in poverty.

3. That improving the health and nutrition of the world's children will help, not hinder, the struggle to slow population growth.

When parents become more confident that their children will survive, says UNICEF, they are more likely to be interested in family planning. Most of the developing nations are now entering or approaching the stage at which further declines in child deaths are associated with much steeper declines in birth rates. Further improvements in child health should now pay major dividends in falling birth rates.

4. That market economic policies should be accompanied by basic investments in people.

The virtual collapse of the idea

of centralised state control of economic life does not mean that governments should leave everything to the markets, says the report. It is the responsibility of government to ensure that virtually all members of society have adequate nutrition, primary health care, clean water, safe sanitation, family planning services, and at least a primary education. These basic investments are essential not only for humanitarian reasons, says UNICEF, but also because they are the foundations for sustained economic growth.

At present, only about 12 per cent of government spending in the developing world is devoted to primary health care and primary education for the poor majority.

5. That increases in international aid should be based on a

commitment to meeting minimum human needs.

More international aid is necessary to defeat poverty, says the report, but there will be little public support for any increase unless aid is seen to be being used primarily for improving the lives of the poor. "That is the kind of aid which the majority of people in the developing world want to receive and the kind of aid which the majority of people in the industrialised world want to give," says UNICEF. At present, less than 10 per cent of all international aid is allocated to meeting basic needs for health, primary education, clean water, and family planning.

6. That action on debt, aid, and trade should create an economic environment in which the people of the de-

veloping world can earn a decent living.

Although average incomes have risen substantially in Asia, says the report, the 1980s were nonetheless a disastrous decade for the majority of countries in the poor world. Average incomes fell by approximately 10 per cent in Latin America and by 25 per cent in Africa. One cause is the debt crisis which is still transferring almost \$30 billion a year from poor to rich nations. Another cause is protectionism in the rich world which costs the poor world a further \$30 billion a year in lost exports.

7. That demilitarisation should begin in the poor world and that falling arms expenditures in the rich world should be linked to increases in aid for development.

The State of the World's Children report calculates that the amount now spent on the world's military exceeds the combined annual incomes of the poorest half of humanity. The goals of the World Summit for Children — including drastic reductions in malnutrition and disease and a basic education for all children — could be met by reallocating just 10 per cent of military expenditure in the developing world and one per cent in the industrialised world.

8. That the chains of Africa's debt be struck off.

Africa is only managing to pay one third of the interest due on its debts. Even this is absorbing a quarter of all its export earnings and costing the continent, each year, more than its total spending on the health and education of its people. "If Africa is not to be left behind as the rest of the world struggles towards a new peace and a new prosperity," says UNICEF, "Then the ways and means should now be found to absolve Africa of the great majority of its bilateral and international

debts."

9. That a new world order should oppose the apartheid of gender as vigorously as the apartheid of race.

The women of the developing world do a disproportionate amount of the Third World's work but are generally rewarded with less food, less health care, less education, less training, less leisure, less income, less rights and less protection, says the report. Discrimination is most pronounced in South Asia where "more than a million girls die each year simply because they are born female."

10. That the responsible planning of births is one of the most effective and least expensive ways of improving the quality of life on earth — both now and in the future.

So important is family planning to the health of mothers and children, says the UNICEF report, that it would be a top priority even if there were no such thing as a population problem. Hundreds of thousands of women and several million children die each year because of births which are too many or too close together, or because mothers were too young or too old to give birth safely. Over 50,000 illegal abortions are performed each day.

The demand for family planning already exists. Approximately one pregnancy in three in the world is unwanted, says the report. If all women had the knowledge and the means to decide how many children to have and when, then the rate of population growth would fall by approximately 30 per cent.

"For all of these reasons," concludes the State of the World's Children report, "family planning could bring more benefits to more people at less cost than any other single 'technology' now available to the human race."



The education of girls probably the world's best investment. Nothing else has such power to improve family health, slow population growth and improve the lives of women themselves (File photo)

Boom or bust, pawnbroking thrives again in Britain

By Paul Holmes
Reuters

LONDON — If you're short of a few pounds to pay the gas bill or a few thousand to fund your latest purchase and the bank manager won't listen, chances are a pawnbroker will.

Britons with something of value to "back" — it could be a fishing trawler or even a stuffed fish — are turning in growing numbers to pawnbrokers for a quick, no questions asked loan as the profession sheds its seedy Victorian image of penury and usury.

And, with Britain's economy in deep recession after a boom in the 1980s, pawnbrokers say they are one sector that isn't feeling the pinch.

"It's a growing business all the time," said Stephen Squire, managing director of the London Pledge Company, one of the "new recruits" to the list of pawnbrokers to set up shop.

"The only effect the recession is having on us perhaps is that a few more items are not being redeemed than normal."

Mr. Squire's company, in the capital's northern Angel District, differs from most pawnbrokers, which tend to accept only jewellery or precious metals. It will lend money on almost any item the value of which it can ascertain.

"We draw the line at fur coats," Mr. Squire, 27. "It's not that we wouldn't buy them but we can't sell them."

Mr. Squire, who founded his business in 1986, was once offered a fishing trawler but turned it down because the man seeking the loan could not agree where it should be harboured.

He says he has lent 100,000 pounds (\$163,000) on a Ferrari Testarossa car and his current stock of Ritz motor vehicles includes a gleaming Harley Davidson motorbike. He has also had two London buses and a helicopter.

Customers — about 300 a week — range from housewives pawning gold rings to make ends meet to fresh-faced "yuppy" businessmen needing quick cash to finance a property deal, pay off stock market losses or buy in to the latest share offer.

"Lots of people get in a tight spot and you can't take your car to the bank or your Rolex (watch)," said Mr. Squire.

"With the right item you can borrow 100,000 pounds from us in a matter of hours. Go to a bank and it's a board meeting and they want your left lung too," he said at his office, graced by a mahogany grandfather clock pawned until June, 1992.

Golf clubs, fishing rods — even a stuffed fish in a glass case —

musical instruments, cameras, watches, jewellery and art works are among items at Mr. Squire's premises, a former bank equipped with security cameras, alarms and glass screens.

Pawnbrokers lend money on items of value and charge interest on the loan. The item is held as security and becomes the pawnbroker's property if the loan is not repaid within six months, but profits from the sale must be given to the customer.

Interest rates, currently 50-60 per cent on an annualised basis, are more than twice those of banks but pawnbrokers say short-term loans on small sums can work out cheap.

"We even get people referred to us by banks," said Mr. Squire. Pawnbroking, symbolised in Britain by the sign of three golden balls outside shops, was known to have existed in China as long as 3,000 years ago.

In Britain, it used to be associated with working-class misery — pawning pots, pans and bed linen to buy food — or rakish aristocrats selling the family heirlooms.

Charles Dickens, chronicler of the worst of 19th century England, called pawnbrokers' shops "receptacles for misery and distress." A derogatory jibe to describe an unprincipled character is that "he would even pawn his own grandmother."

Most shops faded out of existence after World War II with increased affluence and state social security handouts, but the industry staged a comeback in the mid-1980s at the height of Britain's credit-driven "loads of money" boom.

The National Association of Pawnbrokers claims 200 members, many with several shops, against 40 or so in the late 1970s.

"The type of customer has changed completely. They are the middle or upper classes rather than the lower classes. They could be seeking short-term cash to pay private school fees or a skiing holiday," said the association's Harvey Bell-Roberts.

According to Mr. Bell-Roberts, business has boomed both because of increased acceptability of credit in general and legislation which regulates the industry in much the same way as banks.

Some 80 per cent of items pawned are redeemed, said Mr. Bell-Roberts. And though pawnbrokers' discretion means they are never to ask what customers want money for, some visitors are only ready to tell.

"One woman who came in here handed over 6,000 pounds (\$11,000) worth of jewellery and got in a cab to the gambling casino," said Mr. Squire.

Poll tax dodgers could change election outcome

By Maureen Johnson
The Associated Press

LONDON — "We don't want no vote here get lost" a cockney voice shouted through the grimy entry phone of a peeling row house in the south London borough of Lambeth. The phone clicked off.

The man was one of a legion of voters who have dropped from the rolls in hopes of avoiding a hated per-head tax for local services. Their disappearance could save the Conservative government from defeat in the forthcoming general election.

For the Conservatives, who introduced the "poll tax" in England in 1989, the shrinking electoral roll is an ironic reward for a political blunder.

The unpopularity of the tax helped bring down Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Her successor, John Major, has lowered the rate and promises to scrap the tax entirely next year.

Analysts say most of the estimated 250,000 lost voters are low-income residents of inner cities who traditionally support Labour the main opposition party. Their logic in staying off the voting rolls is that the local authorities that register voters also draw up the tax lists.

From a national roll of 43.5 million voters, the drop is small. But the effect could be crucial in a few dozen marginal districts where party strength is nearly equal.

Mr. Major must call an election by the end of the Conservatives' five-year term in July. The date is expected to be April 9 or May 7.

Labour, neck-and-neck with the Conservatives in opinion polls after 13 years of opposition, is canvassing key districts, urging the reluctant to register.

Hackney, in the East End, has lost the most voters of any London borough — 31,000 from the 132,000 registered in 1991. Lambeth has lost 7,000 of 177,000.

"We're extremely worried," said David Salisbury-Jones, the Labour campaign manager in

Streatham, a 60,519-voter parliamentary district within Lambeth. The Conservatives held Streatham in the 1987 election by 2,407 votes.

The man who shouted at a reporter through the entry phone was one of hundreds who told Labour Party canvassers they won't register for fear of being caught for the poll tax.

"There's a clear link in people's minds between registering to vote and registering for the poll tax," Mr. Salisbury-Jones said in an interview. "There's no doubt that poorly paid people who are more likely to be voting Labour are less likely to be registering."

The Electoral Reform Society, an independent body that monitors elections, finds the implications alarming.

"This drop is quite unique and in some areas quite phenomenal," said its spokesman, Simon Osborn. "We think it would be a bad day for democracy if this general election were to be compromised by lack of registration of voters."

"Labour needs to win 95 districts plus the seats it holds now to have a majority in the House of Commons."

An analysis the reform society published in January found the number of voters had fallen since 1987 in 32 of the marginal battlegrounds now held by Conservatives.

In Streatham, for example, the decline was 4,675 — double the number of votes Labour needs to overturn the Tory majority.

Win some, lose some

'When it comes to war plays, the new Trevor Griffith is no match for an old Arthur Miller'

By John Peter

WHEN the Mother of All Battles began in the Gulf a year ago, nobody quite knew the things that would result from it. One of them is Trevor Griffith's new play, "The Gulf Between Us". West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds) begins promisingly enough. We are on a bomb site, resolutely in Baghdad. One-smael (Akram Telawe) is in charge. The dialogue is in Arabic. A terrified Arab in a peaked cap is brought in and summarily executed. In the distance an oil refinery is being bombed.

Enter Ryder, a sharp, naff-looking little man (Paul Slack), from the Manchester area. I should think. He is a building contractor who stayed behind when war began. Now he wants to repair a 4 metre-high hole in a wall by a missile in the wall of a city. Ryder is expertly retrained. He is the English working-class managerial type, a mixture of snooty building and chummy subservience, depending on the importance of the foreigner he's dealing with. Enter Raphael Finbar O'Toole (Dave Hill), who may or may not be a glider, or a reporter from the Sun. Is he, you wonder, special Air Service (SAS)? He seems to know the terrain and to understand Arabic: whose side is he on?

Ryder is not the only one to be

puzzled. Why does such a small job need a British building contractor? Why is it so important to repair this wall? Clearly nobody is up to any good. But Griffiths commits the serious tactical mistake of making the situation so improbable and impenetrable that guessing the plot is like swimming in porridge. Who is hindering whom, and why? It transpires that the shrine had been used as a creche, but that the children were bussed out in time. An Arab woman doctor (Salwa Nakkarah) wants to inspect the building before the wall is repaired — but why is that so urgent? Has the shrine no door?

It takes two-and-a-half hours for the truth to dawn: the shrine also had some obscure military use, and the children were kept there to deter allied attack. But of course, Griffiths says, the allies bombed it anyway. The man executed by Iraqis at the beginning was the driver of the school bus, who could not be allowed to live and tell that he had to drive the bus away empty and let the children die. In other words, this is not quite the anti-West play that the pre-production boo-hah might have suggested. True, there is a passionate and stupefyingly cliché-ridden anti-American speech by the doctor, just to reassure the faint-hearted. But Griffiths is essentially an old-fashioned English radical, with a profound loathing of power structures, operators, armies

and wars, who hates both sides with an almost impartial, puritanical ferocity.

Politically, he does not even begin to grapple with the sinister implications of the Gulf war. His aim is to show the squalid destruction it wreaks on the smaller fry. But the writing entirely lacks the force of Griffiths's indignation. It is plodding, self-righteous and dreary: not the language of the state but the language of the pulpit. And this from one of our foremost playwrights, author of Comedians and The Party? The mind boggles.

THEATRE REVIEW

Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" (Young Vic) is also about the price of war, but Miller's argument is both more lucid and more profound. We have often been told, including by Miller himself, how much he owes to Ibsen, morally and technically. But in fact, like Ibsen, he is also one of our links to the Greeks. Like Ibsen, he has the passion of Aeschylus and Sophocles for finding the causes of the present in the half-buried past, and the sombre gift of reflecting great moral and political issues in primal family confrontations.

All My Sons is saying that wars are caused and managed by fathers, but fought by sons, and

they bring in their wake great Oedipal hatreds. Joe Keller, the manufacturer who knowingly ships faulty parts to the air force where his son serves, is a small town Agamemnon who ends up sacrificing his own and other people's children in the name of business expediency.

Ian Bannen's performance in the role is a major event. He plays Joe with shifty eyes and a fony smile: an anxious survivor who is not quite sure whether he wants reassurance or needs it. Like most of Miller's heroes, he is a failed father who wants to exercise benevolent power, but entirely on his own terms. He is rattled when the benevolence is questioned, and shattered when the power is taken away. Bannen's bearing has a desperate jauntiness, wry but slightly fatigued. It costs an effort because, as the actor clearly knows, Joe has spent all his life bounding back, and it has taken its toll.

This is a granite performance, all the more powerful for its sense of the deep cracks and fissures in the soul. There turns out to be something almost majestic about this little man who stands so stubbornly on ground that he knows to be shifting. His wife Kate (Marjorie Yates) is the only one who knows everything and who understands, lovingly and pityingly, why Joe's joviality is tinged with desperation. And the two actors play together with an aching, mutually responsive de-

licacy, like two master instruments in a sonata.

The end of David Thacker's masterful production is simple but terrible. As in the great Greek dramas, the issues are pride, honour and the moral price you pay for them, with your body and your soul. It is one of the mysteries of our time that the Americans, who still stubbornly aspire to the moral leadership of the world, do not revere in Miller a moral giant of their own literature. He is one of the few people who could show them, as he does at the end of this play, that tragedy for men and nations consists not only in destruction but in survival.

What Americans seem to like are plays like Tina Howe's "Painting Churches" (Playhouse), a thin, slack, overwritten and unfunny comedy that I'm told did well in New York. The Churches, a near-senile Boston poet and his brooding wife (Leslie Phillips and Sian Phillips), are visited by their painter daughter from New York (Josie Lawrence), who wants to paint them. Will they pose like Grant Wood's American Gothic, or Michelangelo's Pietà (pronounced Pee-ater)?

The second half declines abruptly into grim, gooey sentimentality, like a precocious adolescent imitating both Chekhov and Tennessee Williams. What is the poor old West End coming to? — The Sunday Times.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Special Issue No. 2

Drawing of Feb. 2, 1992

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Holder of ticket No. 087673 Wins JD 1,500	Consolation prizes each wins JD 10 087674 087683 087773 088673 097673 087672 087663 087573 086673 077673

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
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Malaysia completes 4-1 win over Jordan in Davis Cup

KUALA LUMPUR (Agencies) — Malaysia completed a 4-1 win over Jordan in their Davis Cup, Asia-Oceania Zone Group 2, tie after the reverse singles Sunday.

Jordan's No. 1 seeded Hani Al Ali scored Jordan's only win with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Rahizhan Rahim.

Malaysian No. 2 Ramayan Ramachandran beat his Jordanian counterpart Linad Abu Hamda 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

On Saturday, Malaysia's Adam Malik and Ramayan Ramachandran won the doubles match as they beat Ali and Saleh Bushnaq 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

In the opening matches of the first round of the Davis Cup Malaysia beat Jordan in the singles matches Friday as Ramachandran beat Ali 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, while Malaysian No. 1 Malik defeated Abu Hamda in straight sets 6-0, 6-2, 6-2.

Jordan will now face Singapore who lost to Thailand, while Thailand and Malaysia will face off in group's qualifier.

Brazil 2, Germany 1

Jaime Oncins won the final set of his suspended match to beat Carl-Uwe Steeb and Cassio Motta and Fernando Riese combined to rout Boris Becker and Eric Jelen in doubles 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 Saturday, polling Brazil within one victory of eliminating the 1989 champs from the first round of the Davis Cup.

Oncins, 79th in the ATP tour rankings, started the day leading 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 2-1 from a match that was called because of darkness, and used a mix of topspin lobs and drop shots to complete his four-set victory 7-6 (7-5) to even the best-of-five series at one match apiece.

On Friday in Rio De Janeiro,

Boris Becker staged a dramatic rally to defeat Luiz Mattar in a 4½-hour match — 6-4, 5-7, 1-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-0 — that gave Germany an opening victory over Brazil.

In the doubles, Becker and Jelen led 4-1 in the opening set, but Motta and Riese won the next three games, broke the Germans in the 11th and served out for the set. In the second, the Brazilians broke the Germans in the first and ninth games, winning the set when Motta split Jelen and Becker for a winner.

Brazil earned the only break of the third set in the eighth game to lead 5-3 and Motta held serve for the victory.

The Brazil-Germany match was one of eight World Group matches in Davis Cup play being contested this weekend. In other matches Saturday, Australia completed its 3-0 sweep of an undermanned Yugoslavia 3-0; Switzerland completed its win over Netherlands 3-0; Czechoslovakia did the same to Belgium; France finished off Britain 3-0; Italy took a 2-1 lead over Spain; and the United States clinched its victory over Argentina.

Later Saturday, Canada had a chance to upset Sweden, entering their doubles match with a surprising 2-0.

Canada 2, Sweden 1

At Vancouver, British Columbia, Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd defeated Grant Connell and Glenn Michibata 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, in a doubles match that cut Canada's lead to 2-1.

The victory enabled Sweden to avoid elimination from first-round World Group play for the third year in a row after losing Friday night's opening two singles matches in the best-of-5 series.

At Kohala Coast, Hawaii, John McEnroe and Rick Leach awoke from a first-set stupor and dominated Javier Frana and Christian Minussi 6-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. The U.S. team's next opponent will be Czechoslovakia, which eliminated Belgium in another first-round series Saturday.

McEnroe and Leach, playing as a doubles team for the first time, took control after losing seven consecutive points in the

France 3, Britain 0

In Bayonne, France, Guy Forget and Henri Leconte combined for a 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Jeremy Bates and South African-born Neal Broad. The victory gave the defending champions their first victory since they won the cup over the United States in December.

Australia 3, Yugoslavia 0

John Fitzgerald and Todd Woodbridge combined for a 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2) doubles win over the much-lesser experienced Aleksandar Kipinov and Nebojsa Djordjic, sending their country into the second round of the Davis Cup.

The pairing of Kipinov and the 18-year-old Djordjic was forced after Yugoslavia's player, Slobodan Zivojinovic, defaulted from his singles match against Richard Fromberg Friday because of a back injury and was unable to play in Saturday's doubles.

The veteran team of Fitzgerald and Woodbridge took advantage of frequent errors on service returns and at the net by the Djordjic.

The Australia-Yugoslavia match was played in Nicosia, Cyprus, because of political strife in Yugoslavia.

United States 3, Argentina 0

At Kohala Coast, Hawaii, John McEnroe and Rick Leach awoke from a first-set stupor and dominated Javier Frana and Christian Minussi 6-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. The U.S. team's next opponent will be Czechoslovakia, which eliminated Belgium in another first-round series Saturday.

McEnroe and Leach, playing as a doubles team for the first time, took control after losing seven consecutive points in the

first-set tiebreaker. The Americans broke service in the opening game of the second set, completing it when Frana's backhand return was out. McEnroe and Leach got another break in the set, two in the third and three in the fourth.

Italy 2, Spain 1

At Bolzano, Italy, Omar Camporese and Diego Nargiso defeated Emilio Sanchez and Sergio Casal 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-4, to put the Italians within one win of advancing. "The key to the match was the tie-break," Nargiso said. "We won that, Omar had a good second set, he was responding well and it was all easy."

Casal lost on his serve in the fourth game and eighth games of the second set, and they lost his serve again in the third game of the final set on his fourth double fault of the match.

Switzerland 3, Netherlands 0

At the Hague, Netherlands, Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek overpowered the Netherlands' Paul Haarhuis and Mark Koevermans 6-2, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1. Rosset's serve Hlasek's volleying overpowered the Dutch, sending the Swiss into the quarterfinals against France.

Czechoslovakia 3, Belgium 0

In Prague, Czechoslovakia, Petr Korda and Cyril Suk easily beat Tom Vanhoudt and Eduardo Masso 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. Korda and Suk proved too experienced for the Belgium double, overwhelming them at the net and winning in little over 1½ hours. "The U.S. team will be a big bite to chew," Korda said. "A lot will depend on the surface."

Jordan wins silver medal in Asian tae kwon do tourney

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Ammar Faded Sunday lost 5-2 to Saeed Abassi of Iran in the quarterfinals of the 76-83 kg. category, concluding the Jordanian team's matches in the 10th Asian Tae Kwon Do Championship in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Ammar earlier beat Michael Hancy of New Zealand 4-2.

On Saturday Hussein Makki

secured a silver medal for Jordan in the 54-58 kg. category.

Makki dedicated his victory to His Majesty King Hussein, whom he wished a speedy recovery, and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for his support of the tae kwon do national team and the sports movement in the Kingdom, as well as to the Jordanian people.

Perkins breaks swimming record

CANBERRA, Australia (R) — Australian Kieren Perkins set himself up as favourite for this year's Barcelona Olympic Games by smashing the 1500 metres short course world record at the second Grand Prix swim meet in Canberra Sunday.

Perkins clocked a time of 14 minutes 32.40 seconds to take a staggering 5.2 seconds off the old world standard time set by the Soviet Union's Vladimir Salnikov in 1985.

Perkins lapped second placegetter and arch rival Glen Housman who finished in a time of 15 minutes 07.12 seconds, more than two-and-a-half laps behind.

Cash, morale problems hit CIS Olympic hopes

MOSCOW (R) — Five orphans from the most powerful family in Winter Olympics history arrive in Albertville this week short of cash and low on morale.

The team from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is confident only that the days when Soviet athletes took home the pick of the gold medals are, like the Soviet Union itself, a thing of the past.

Only twice in Olympic history had the Soviet team failed to head the medals table at a winter games in which they participated. In Calgary four years ago the Soviet Union won 29 medals, including 11 golds.

CIS team leaders see united Germany as favourites to lead the medals table in the French Alps, with Norway close behind. Norway was the last non-Communist country to emerge top, in Grenoble in 1968.

Viktor Mamatov, in charge of overall Olympic preparations, told TASS News Agency recently that Germany could win 30 medals, including 10 to 11 golds at the Feb. 8-23 games.

The CIS would win 25-27 medals, he forecast, with their gold tally equal to Norway's — nine to 10.

Five of the 11 Commonwealth states are represented in the CIS team — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. In theory the team should be as strong as ever. The only former medal-winner missing is cross-country skier Vida Vitsene, now competing for the separate Lithuanian team.

But there is a huge question mark over the team's morale, following the break-up of the Soviet Union in December and the political and economic turmoil at home.

The combined team will compete without a national flag as there is no single state. Winners will be honoured by raising the five-ringed Olympic flag to the playing of the Olympic anthem. Many are bitter about the loss of national identity.

"We are not without kith or kin. All my life I competed for my motherland, for my country, for my flag. And now we appear to be orphans," speed skater Nikolai Guliyev said recently.

The financial incentives are not likely to inspire team members. Winners in individual events will receive \$3,000, runners-up \$2,000, bronze medalists \$1,000.

The team can only pay its way to France thanks to support from the International Olympic Committee and a controversial contract with the giant sports company Adidas.

Team selectors appear to have played safe and banked on experience in most events. One exception is ice hockey. The squad picked by coaches Viktor Tikhonov and Vladimir Yursinov is young, by necessity because former Soviet stars playing abroad and clubs in the North American NHL will not release them for the games.

Nevertheless, the coaches hope to beat off challenges from Canada, Sweden and United States believing the young players, eager to win a good contract abroad, will be inspired.

The traditional strengths of the former Soviet squad are still there in figure skating, cross-country skiing and biathlon. The best hopes lie with cross-country skiing. Women's events were dominated by Yelena Vyalbe and the relay team last season.

Even without Vitsene, the CIS team is the front-runner in every cross-country event. Olympic champions Tamara Tikhonova, Svetlana Nageikina and 1990 World Cup winner Larisa Lazutina will provide strong support to Vyalbe.

And, of course, there is Raisa Smetanina, turning 40 on Feb. 29. This will be her fifth Olympics and she has won medals at each of the previous four. The biathlon team is experienced and headed by Valery Medvedtsev, holder of one Olympic and numerous world titles.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the New Moon in Aquarius as well as the Sun Mercury and Saturn it is a time for brilliant ideas, ingenuity and the resourcefulness to reduce them to a workable level bringing maximum benefits.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whatever you have in mind that will enhance the value of your daily routine activities and that you have not tried before this but is proven can be helpful to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will find that some accepted methods you have not yet utilized to improve your appearance and increase your charm can be of service to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your home needs to have a little tuning up in ways you have some time intended but have not gotten around doing so get into such improvements now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) In your messages and correspondence today stick to those answers to which no exception can be taken but that present a new standpoint.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about the various repairs you can make here and there on your property and possessions and you will be able to greatly enhance their value.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find some prominent

friends are in the mood to give you the benefiting ways they have successful that can gain you your personal aims.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Put yourself in a positive to uncover the information you need that can aid you in projecting a course of action that can bring you more success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A discriminating and particular minded friend will extend to you some ideas by which you will be able to achieve wishes that seem far away.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) More inspired enthusiasm to make your vocational activities be in tune with current successful outlets can be a great to you now.

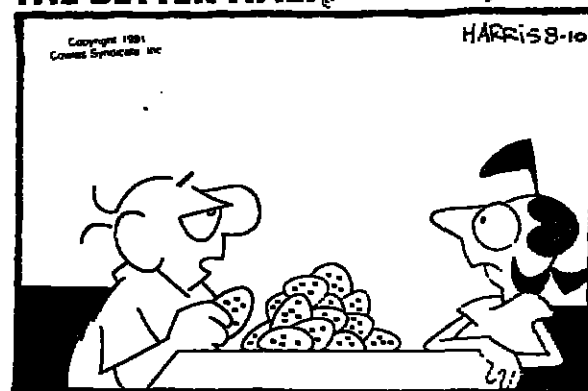
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Data that can be of service to you is available to you from persons of a different background and experiences who are your admirers so seek them out.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind about business matters can be up graded by some formulas satisfying to others that you have not yet put in effect.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look at what partners and associates away from your home desire from you for by going along with accepted ideas they bring success to a joint project.

THE BETTER HALF

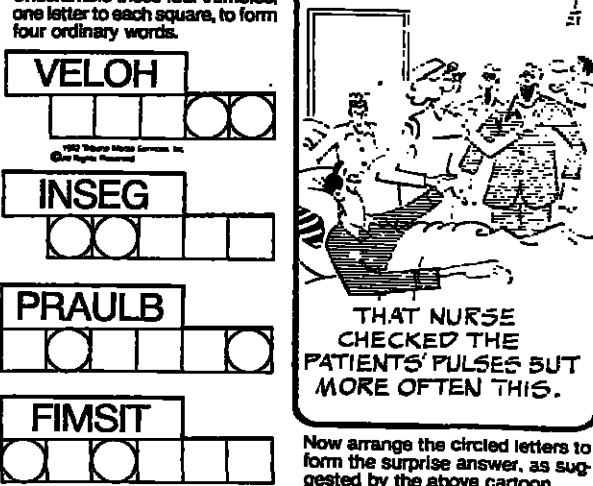
By Harris



"My doctor told me to eat less red meat. So I'm having cookies for dinner."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



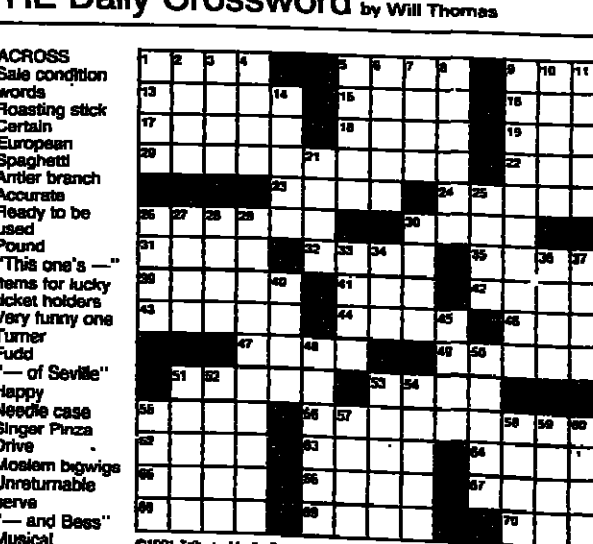
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THEIR

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHAKY AFTER FLEECE WINTRY

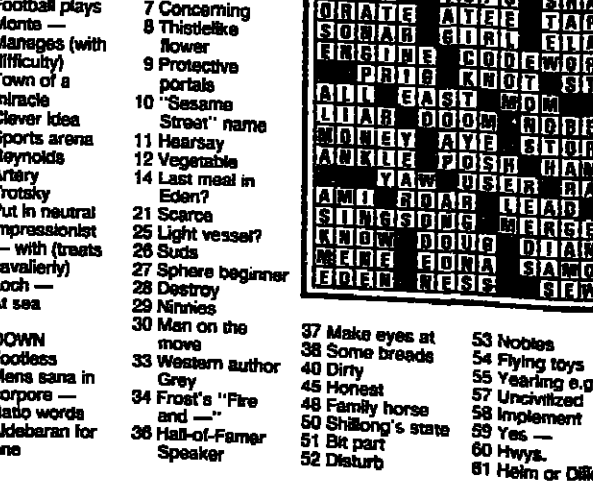
Answer: How a poker player conceals his hand— WITH HIS FACE

THE Daily Crossword by Will Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



White wins Auckland final

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Unseeded American Robin White won her first tournament for seven years Sunday, beating top-seeded Andrea Strnadova of Czechoslovakia in the final of the \$100,000 Nutri-Metics Classic women's tennis tournament.

White combined power and subtlety to defeat Strnadova 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

It was the second straight year

Strnadova was beaten finalist and the third time she had made a final in New Zealand and lost.

White, a 28-year-old from Del Mar, California, earned \$18,000 for her victory. Her last tournament win came in the Virginia Slims of Pennsylvania in 1985.

Strnadova served powerfully, but a back strain affected her mobility and White was eventually able to dominate at the net.

Austrian wins slalom in World Cup skiing

GRINDELWALD, Switzerland (AP) — Monika Maierhofer, often a runnerup but never before a winner, turned her dreams into reality Sunday by capturing a World Cup slalom.

"I had a dream two nights ago that I would win here in Grindelwald," the Austrian said after defeating Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg by nearly half a second. Maierhofer, 25, who had finished second in eight slaloms since 1987, won the last race before the Olympics with a time of 1 minute, 13.99 seconds for the two runs.

Wiberg, world champion in the giant slalom, was second in 1:14.46 and Annelise Coberger of New Zealand was third in 1:14.48 — the third time this season she has been in the top three of a slalom. "It was a good day for me, especially since it was an easy, short course and that's not normally good for me," said Coberger, who won a slalom in mid-January in Hinterstoder, Austria.

Coberger, the only New Zealander on the ski circuit, had a loud cheering section that waved banners and rang Swiss cowbells.

"I guess since there were no Swiss girls on contention, they thought: 'Here's a remote country, let's cheer for her,'" Coberger said of her new fans.

The top American was Eva Twardokens, who finished 13th in 1:16.49. Teammate Julie Parisien was fifth on the first run, but missed a gate on the second run and did not finish.

Parisien was skiing in her first race since breaking her left wrist and losing four teeth in a pair of skiing accidents two weeks ago. She skied with a cast on her wrist. Sabine Ginther of Austria won a weekend combined event, which consisted of results of the slalom added to those of Saturday's downhill. Ginther, who won the downhill, was ninth in the slalom.

Sabatini beats Navratilova in Pan-Pacific Open final

TOKYO (AP) — Martina Navratilova's bid for a record 158th tournament title fell victim Sunday to Gabriela Sabatini's stream of pinpoint serve returns and passing shots.

In a repeat of last year's final, the top-seeded Sabatini beat the second-seeded Navratilova 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 for the singles title of the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament. "She (Sabatini) played well and I didn't. My serves did not have good placement so she made good returns, forcing me on to defence," Navratilova said.

The 35-year-old Navratilova defeated Monica Seles in the 1991 Virginia Slims of California for her 157th career title, tying the longstanding record set by fellow American Chris Evert.

"I think I played very good, especially returns and passing shots, but my first serves were short," said Sabatini, 21, of Argentina, after improving her record against Navratilova to 4-14.

Navratilova said she would keep playing as long as she still can do well competitively.

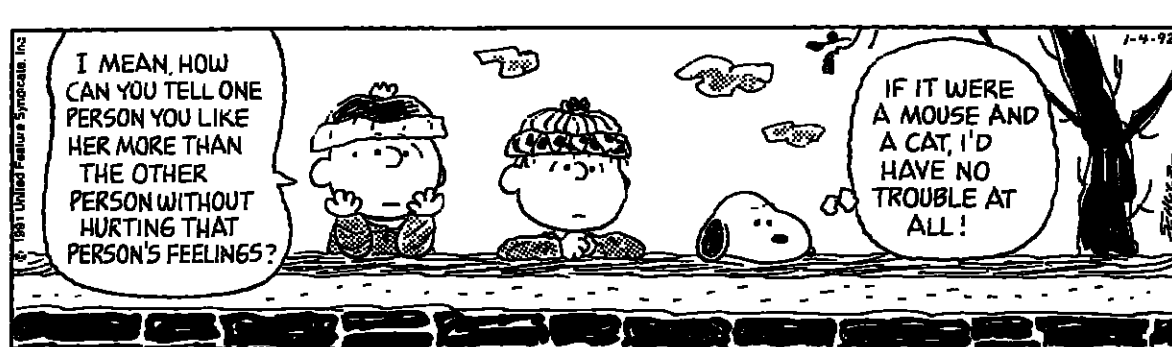
"I am doing well and still enjoying it. Then the money is great and the attention is great," she added.

Playing before 7,000 spectators on the artificial court of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, Sabatini used her sharply angled serve return to break serve in the first game after three deuces.

She broke again in the seventh game, helped by Navratilova's first double fault, and then had to overcome two double faults of her own to keep service in the first set's final game.

Sabatini let a 3-1 lead slip away in the second set, but quickly raced to a 4-1 lead in the third. The next game went through nine deuces before Sabatini kept serve when Navratilova netted a return. She wrapped up the nearly two-hour match with a cross court backhand.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

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TRY BOTH POSSIBILITIES

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K
♥ J 8 6 5
♦ K 8 7 6
♣ 5 4 3

WEST
♠ Void
♥ J 10 3 2
♦ 10 7
♣ J 10 4 3 2 A 9 5

EAST
♠ J 10 8 7 6
♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ Q 9 4 2
♣ K 9

SOUTH
♠ Q 9 8 7 6 5 4
♥ A K 3
♦ Void
♣ A Q 2

The bidding: Queen of North. East Pass. South Pass. West Pass. 2 NT Pass. 3 NT Pass. 4 NT Pass. 5 NT Pass. Opening lead: Queen of One of the attractions of bridge is that it can be enjoyed by players of all levels of skill. Perhaps that is because, even at the expert level, you can make mistakes without even realizing you have done something wrong! North had a difficult bid to make. Two no trump probably fits the bill as well as any, and South knew where the hand should be played. True, given the right hand there could be a laydown slam, but since North didn't open the bidding and

rated to have some wasted values in diamonds, four spades was the judicious decision. Declarer won the opening lead in hand and a trump to the king revealed there was a trump loser as well as one in diamonds. Since declarer could not afford two club losers, the remaining trump was cashed and the club finesse was taken. When the queen held, declarer claimed the contract.

While this approach might seem impeccable on the surface, declarer actually misplayed the hand. What if the king of clubs was offside? Instead of putting all the North-South eggs in the basket of the club finesse, declarer should have played for an additional chance—a favorable position in hearts. Correct technique is to cash the king of hearts and then test trumps. When West shows out, declarer abandons trumps and leads another heart to the ace, then plays a third round of the suit. If hearts are 3-3, or should West turn up with the queen, declarer will have set up the jack of hearts and can discard a club on that winner. The ace of trumps is the entry to the board. Since nothing favorable happens on this lay-out, declarer is forced to fall back on the club finesse.

Foreign Exchange Market Summary
(January 27 - January 31, 1992)

AMMAN — The dollar was bid up during most of last week's trading session on technical short covering. Rumours and speculation continued to dominate trading activity as uncertainty over the comparative economic fundamentals of the U.S., Germany and Japan prevailed. The U.S. unit finished the week an average of 1.08 per cent higher against the Japanese yen and 1.79 per cent higher against the German mark.

The Japanese currency dropped significantly Monday, mainly against the dollar, as the mark was also weakened by concerns over Russian President Yeltsin's health. The yen's drop followed the failure of the G-7 countries to deliver any direct action regarding the yen's exchange rate against the dollar. The mark's weakness was due to interpretations of Germany's undertaking to lower interest rates "when conditions permitted" as a signal of a near-term credit easing in Germany. Yet the dollar ended at its lowest level of the week against the Japanese unit at 125.25 yen.

Technical adjustments continued to boost the dollar against the yen Tuesday, while a number of factors helped pull it down against the mark. The index of consumer confidence in the U.S. was down to 50.4 per cent in January, compared to a revised 52.5 per cent in December, and rumours of Fed intervention further added to the dollar's sell off. The previously held perceptions of a German interest rate cut were bolstered by expectations of an interest rate cut in Japan, to help boost domestic demand there. The German unit thus ended at its highest level of the week against its American and Japanese counterparts, at 1.5997 marks to the dollar and 78.63 yen to the mark.

Caution had prevailed since the beginning of the week ahead of President Bush's State of the Union speech Tuesday, as many traders speculated that a package of generous tax cuts, to help boost the U.S. economy, might be announced. The speech, however, came as a disappointment to many as it proposed no immediate actions that would influence exchange rates in the short term. Wednesday thus saw the dollar fall during trading hours to a low of 1.5815 marks to the dollar. But the U.S. unit rebounded sharply after the Fed chairman stated his belief that no further monetary or fiscal actions were needed to set the U.S. economy on the path of recovery. Traders took the comments as a signal that no further interest rate cuts were on the Fed's agenda. The dollar ended at its lowest level of the week against the pound, however, losing at 1.7880 dollars to the pound sterling.

The dollar rose significantly towards the end of the week, closing at its highest level of the week Thursday, at 1.6163 marks, 125.80 yen and 1.7820 dollars to the pound. It retreated marginally against European currencies Friday, in choppy trading, as the thin volume ahead of the month-end, together with uncertainty over economic fundamentals helped produce exaggerated movements. The dollar had hit a high of 1.6220 marks to the dollar earlier Friday, on expectations of a vote for a strike by German steel workers. But when the news confirmed these expectations, many traders hurried to unwind their long dollar positions ahead of the weekend. The rationale was that the Bundesbank might be obliged to keep interest rates high, should negotiations with the union result in generous wage increases. The dollar was also pressured by rumours of Bundesbank intervention and the release of weak economic data, as December's leading economic indicators revealed a drop of 0.3 per cent for this week, some observers maintain that technical indicators have turned positive for the dollar after its recent rally. These observers believe that the target is set for 1.6350 marks, the breach of which could take the dollar to 1.6700 marks.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	24/1/1992 Close	31/1/1992 Close	Percent Change
sterling Pound*	1.7970	1.7855	- .64 %
Deutsche Mark	1.5920	1.6115	+ 1.21 %
Swiss Franc	1.4130	1.4330	+ 1.4 %
French Franc	5.4285	5.4880	+ 1.08 %
Japanese Yen	125.55	125.80	+ 1.79 %

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	24/1/1992 1-Month (%)	31/1/1992 1-Month (%)	24/1/1992 1-Year (%)	31/1/1992 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.00	4.47	4.06	4.50
Sterling Pound	10.62	10.25	10.62	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.37	9.06	9.56	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.45	7.19	7.31	7.18
French Franc	9.87	9.50	9.93	9.62
Japanese Yen	5.37	4.71	5.40	4.76

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6780	0.6800
Sterling Pound	1.2091	1.2151
Deutsche Mark	0.4203	0.4224
Swiss Franc	0.4721	0.4745
French Franc	0.1234	0.1240
Japanese Yen*	0.5381	0.5408
Gold	0.3734	0.3753
British Krona	0.1157	0.1163
Iran Lira*	0.0559	0.0562
Iran Franc	0.02420	0.02520

Lloyd's of London urged to help members, allow companies to join

LONDON (R) — An expert report recommends fundamental reforms at Lloyd's of London, the world's largest insurance market, to protect members against personal financial ruin in a world of sharply rising claims.

"Lloyd's A Route Forward," prepared by a special task force set up a year ago, proposes that a new central fund be created purely for the benefit of members of the loss-making market who must agree to unlimited personal liability.

A central fund already exists but it is only used as a last resort to guarantee payment of insurance claims.

The report also struck a historic compromise with Lloyd's hallmark of unlimited liability by proposing that companies as well as individuals be permitted to become Lloyd's members.

"The proposals in this report will help strengthen names' (members) confidence in the society's future prospects," the panel said of the 240-page document drafted by market experts and outside business consultants.

But it added: "The society should seek to reform the current structure rather than move to an entirely new basis of trading."

Costly claims, many from underwriting that became caught up in so-called future claims, such as those for asbestos and environmental pollution, have plagued the Lloyd's market, leading to unprecedented legal battles over

losses and preventing hundreds of disgruntled members from quitting.

In one case currently before the High Court in London, a group of 987 Lloyd's names — the term used for syndicate members — is suing RHM Outwrite (underwriting) Agencies Ltd., for alleged negligence in connection with losses which lawyers say reached \$436 million (\$825 million at current rates).

The plaintiffs include ex-British Prime Minister Edward Heath, publisher George Weidenfeld and former Wimbledon tennis champion Virginia Wade. The late media mogul Robert Maxwell had also been among them.

Cases involving Lloyd's underwriting activities are also pending in the United States and Canada.

Welcoming the findings of the report, Lloyd's Chairman David Coleridge said in a statement that its governing council would consider implementing a compulsory stop-loss plan to help loss-stricken members — to start from the 1993 accounting year.

Insurance is underwritten at Lloyd's by more than 20,000 individuals acting as sole traders with unlimited liability for profits and losses, a practice which has exposed many to virtual bankruptcy in recent years of record losses.

The task force said unlimited liability was inextricable from the way in which underwriters oper-

ate at Lloyd's. Many members had hoped that it would end.

Under the stop-loss plan, proposed by the task force, members would contribute 0.25 per cent of their total premiums to a central fund, which would meet any losses in excess of the amount they had pledged to meet risks in a four-year period.

Mr. Coleridge said Lloyd's would take up other recommendations to seek ways to expanding capacity, income and profits and strengthening the relationship between brokers and the market.

But its council declined a longer-term proposal to revamp its governing structure by splitting into two boards dealing separately with market and regulatory issues.

"After full debate, the council considered that this should not be pursued," he said, arguing that the present framework was best for implementing change.

Among the most radical long-term reforms, the task force recommended opening membership to corporate capital, a move which would entail overhauling acts of parliament which enshrine Lloyd's as a self-regulatory body.

Lloyd's capital would then come from two sources — individuals with unlimited liability and institutions meeting stringent solvency qualifications, the task force said.

Lebanon shuffles on long road to economic recovery

BEIRUT (R) — Peace has returned to Lebanon after 15 years of civil war, but rich Lebanese at home and abroad are still reluctant to invest in a country that was once the economic powerhouse of the Middle East.

And while the economy has improved since war's end just over a year ago, Trade and Economy Minister Marwan Hamadi says Lebanon has a long way to go.

"If the financial situation continues as it is we might face bankruptcy... we have to confess that Lebanon is a poor country which has become even poorer because of the war," Mr. Hamadi told Reuters.

Finance Minister Ali Al Khalil echoes Mr. Hamadi's comments: "Lebanon's economy has partially recovered... substantial progress was achieved last year... but the overall economic situation in Lebanon shows that we still carry the heavy burden of the devastating war."

The improvement since the 1989 peace pact and the disbanding of militias early last year, is easy to see.

Customs revenue in 1991 was \$113 million compared to \$2 million in 1990.

State income in 1991 covered 30 per cent of government spending and is likely to rise to 42

per cent this year. In 1989 income met only eight per cent of expenditure.

The balance of payments achieved a billion dollar surplus last year compared to a deficit in the previous two.

Hard currency reserves stand at more than a billion dollars. In 1988 they were about \$400 million.

Mr. Khalil said treasury income during the civil war was low because the state could not collect taxes. Ports were run by militia chieftains who levied their own customs fees.

The Lebanese pound, which before the war averaged about 2.25 to the dollar, reached a peak of 1.180 to the dollar in 1990. It has stabilised at 879 to the dollar since the beginning of the year.

A central bank official said the progress had encouraged Lebanese expatriates to transfer some \$600 million to Lebanon but more than \$20 billion was still placed abroad.

Arab investors poured an estimated \$100 million in last year but the amount is a drop in the bucket compared to the billions officials hoped would flow in after the guns fell silent.

Officials say Lebanon's foreign debt is a relatively small \$500 million — although no official figures were kept during the war

years — but its internal borrowing is huge.

Internal borrowing reached \$2.28 billion in 1991 — more than half the value of the foreign reserves.

To speed up the recovery, Lebanon has to rebuild its infrastructure. The telephone system is in tatters, electricity supplies unreliable, and war-damaged water, roads and sewage systems largely unrepaired.

Mr. Hamadi said a political power struggle that has taken the place of the military one and corruption in the administration both threatened economic development and could thwart the progress already achieved.

"We have to reform our administration to encourage the world to send financial aid to Lebanon, persuade Lebanese expatriates to return their foreign capital home and convince the rich living in Lebanon to invest in their country," Mr. Hamadi said.

The central bank officials said tighter spending and new tax policies would raise the state's income and boost the economy.

"I am not pessimistic... this year the economy will thrust forward, I think in the next six years and with better planning we can reach the level we had before the war," Mr. Khalil said.

Saudis launch big plan to expand oil refineries

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has begun work on a \$2 billion plan to upgrade three of its seven refineries, officials and oil industry sources have said.

SAMAREC, the kingdom's marketing and refining company, said it has appointed Foster Wheeler Corp. of the United States as the overall managing contractor of the project, expected to be completed by the end of 1995 or early 1996.

The plan would boost the combined capacity of the three refineries to 475,000 barrels per day (b/d) from the current 400,000 b/d, a company spokesman said by telephone from Jeddah.

"SAMAREC expects a significant enhancement in higher-quality products for the export market as a result of the upgrading of its wholly-owned refineries at Yanbu, Riyadh and Jeddah," it said in a press release sent to Reuters in Cyprus.

Additional work was expected to follow, involving the kingdom's four other refineries — Rabigh, Pemref-Yanbu, Petromin-Shell Jubail and Saudi Aramco-Ras Tanunrah. But the spokesman said "nothing concrete" had been decided yet on the future phases.

The seven refineries currently process around 1.5 million b/d of crude oil after reaching a peak of 1.8 million b/d during the Gulf crisis to meet increased demand from the U.S.-led allied forces that drove Iraq out from Kuwait last February.

Saudi Arabia has said it planned to boost the overall refining capacity to around two million b/d during the current decade.

By 1995, its crude oil production capacity is expected to reach 10 million b/d from the current nine million, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Al Nazer has said.

Sheikh Nazer was quoted by the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) as saying the kingdom would maintain its current output at 8.5 million b/d during this winter.

The press release said Foster Wheeler was currently conducting engineering studies and preparing "lump-sum turnkey bid packages for the detailed engineering, procurement and construction activity at each of the three refineries."

"Foster Wheeler will also provide overall programme management of the selected contractors all the way through to commissioning of the facilities," it added.

The three refineries will produce lead-free gasoline with significant quantities for export from Yanbu, whose capacity will be increased from 170,000 b/d to 240,000 b/d, it said.

"Overall gasoline output is expected to go from the current production level of 93,000 b/d to 208,000 b/d," it said.

Jet fuel and diesel output will also be increased, while fuel oils will decline from 126,000 b/d to 90,000 b/d, the statement added.

Former in 1989, SAMAREC markets around one million b/d of refined products, including 400,000 b/d in exports.

Taiwan to boost energy imports

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan, rich in cash but poor in natural resources, will devote more oil and coal this year to sustain its dynamic economy, officials have said.

"We need to boost oil and coal imports this year to feed our economic growth," a spokesman for the Energy Commission of the economics ministry said in an interview.

Last year, Taiwan coal imports fell slightly to almost 18.6 million tonnes from over 18.6 million in 1990.

Total coal imports this year are expected to reach 20 million tonnes, he said.

"We believe the increase in our energy imports will help the government achieve its economic growth this year," he said.

Imports of crude, fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) dropped to 30.8 million kilolitres from 31.6 million during 1991, according to the same commission.

Only imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) increased jumping to 1.5 million tonnes in 1991 from 650,000 in 1990, the spokesman said.

State-owned Chinese Petroleum Corp. (CPC), a leading energy importer, will increase its imports of crude, fuel oil and LPG by at least five per cent this year from the 1991 levels, company spokesman Kuo Yung said.

Taiwan started its new six-year economic plan in the second half of 1991 and has set its GNP growth at about seven per cent this year. But economists said the island could exceed that target.

Taiwan had record foreign exchange reserves of \$82.4 billion by the end of 1991, the world's largest. It only produced 402,000 tonnes of coal last year, down from 472,000 in 1990 and 110,000 kilolitres of crude oil, down from 182,000.

State-run Taiwan Power Company (Taipower) and CPC — said the island needed more energy imports this year to run local industries and businesses and support the island's GNP growth.

"We will substantially increase our coal imports to 12 million tonnes this year," a senior Taipower official said.

Last year, Taipower imported

about 8.8 million tonnes of coal, down from 9.4 million tonnes in 1990, he said.

He said LNG imports, solely from Indonesia, would be kept at 1.5 million tonnes this year, the same amount as in 1991.

Both Taipower and CPC officials attributed last year's slight fall in energy imports to over-buying in late 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait, causing a flurry of imports of coal and oil.

"We reduced our oil and coal stocks last year," the spokesman of the Energy Commission said.

Taiwan imports oil mainly from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Oman, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ecuador, Australia and the United States.

The island buys coal mainly from Australia, the United States, South Africa, Indonesia and China. Imports of Chinese coal, mainly by private cement, paper and steel producers, soared to about 1.2 million tonnes last year from 500,000 in 1990.

The Energy Commission spokesman said coal imports by the private sector would further jump to about 1.5 million tonnes this year.

Mongolia's situation worsens

BEIJING (AP) — Mongolia's two-year-old effort to create a market economy has produced deepening economic problems, according to year-end figures showing falling trade, national income and state revenues.

The figures show Mongolia's situation deteriorating since the end of 1990, when government officials already were describing the former communist nation's economic situation as a "severe crisis."

The total income of individual Mongolians fell to 7.1 billion tugriks (\$177.5 million), down 13 per cent from 1990, the People's Right newspaper reported.

The official Chinese news agency Xinhua carried the report in a dispatch from the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator.

Exports fell 55 per cent to \$297.4 million, the report said.

Imports fell still further — down 61 per cent to \$339.3 million.

The report did not give a figure for gross domestic product, the standard measurement of a nation's economy. That figure includes all goods and services produced within a country.

This landlocked central Asian nation of about two million people has been on a course of drastic market reforms since its communist rulers gave up their 69-year monopoly on power in 1990.

Coupled with the loss of trade with the former Soviet Union, the reforms have produced rising unemployment and double-digit inflation.

The report said less than 82 per cent of the state's expected revenues for 1991 were collected, but did not say how much that was.

Qatar to borrow 2 b riyals

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Qatar plans to borrow two billion Qatari riyals (\$550 million) from domestic and international banks to finance a major power and water project.

The deputy chairman of the newly established Qatar Electricity and Water Company (QEWC), Abdul Aziz Hussein Salatt, told Reuters by telephone from Doha the firm was expected to raise the money this year.

The QEWC was set up with a capital of one-billion-riyal (\$275 million) to help meet local needs and to benefit from recently discovered huge gas reserves in the Gulf state.

Sheikh Salatt said the firm, 30 per cent owned by the Qatari government, would build a plant in Al Wusail west of the capital, Doha.

He said the QEWC would use locally-produced gas to operate the plant expected to come on stream in 1994.

Qatar's vast North Field gas reservoir, the world's biggest, began production last August with a target rate of 800 million cubic feet per day.

Qatar's vast North Field gas reservoir, the world's biggest, began production last August with a target rate of 800 million cubic feet per day.

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A.Y. Ensour
Managing Director
The Arab Potash Company Ltd.,

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Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., Ltd. announces that the closing date of tender No. 23F/91 (for the supply of 10 units 50 tonnes rear dump truck for Eshidiya Mine) have been extended until 12 hours local time Saturday, February 22, 1992.

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Bush slide in polls continues

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (Agencies) — Scarcely two weeks before the critical New Hampshire primary and with his much-ballyhooed State of the Union speech behind him, U.S. President George Bush's popularity is slipping, the latest polls reveal.

Mr. Bush, who less than a year ago commanded the highest popularity ratings any U.S. president had ever registered, is now supported by only 44 per cent of voters nationwide, less than half the apex reached immediately after the Gulf war.

Among likely voters in New Hampshire state, Mr. Bush's popularity had dropped to 52 per cent from a high of 61. The two polls were released as Vice President Dan Quayle campaigned hard in New Hampshire, trying to win a whirlwind tour of eight cities to support Mr. Bush in the primary and help prod Congress to back his proposed budget.

Mr. Quayle said New Hampshire Republicans should consider the primary a referendum on the White House budget proposal.

He promised voters in the economically-depressed state that doing so would lead quickly to the creation of jobs.

Although it is a small state with few delegates at stake in the nominating process, the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 18 is a crucial testing ground.

This is partly because it is the first, but its reputation rests mainly in a historical quirk — no one has won the presidency without first winning here since the state held its first primary in 1952. The U.S. presidential election is in November.

In the nationwide poll conducted by Time magazine and the Cable News Network, Mr. Bush dropped to the all-time low two days after his State of the Union address last Tuesday.

Mr. Bush and his aides had spoken of the speech for months as his blueprint for the economic revitalisation of the United States.

But the poll of 1,000 Americans found 56 per cent felt the economic proposals Mr. Bush unveiled in the address and included in his budget proposal to Congress, demanding they be approved by March 20, were an election-year gimmick.

Thirty-four per cent believed they amounted to a genuine plan and eight per cent were unsure.

The New Hampshire poll found Mr. Bush's support had dropped in less than a week by nine points to 52 per cent of Republicans likely to vote in the state's primary. The president is facing a right-wing challenge from political commentator Pat Buchanan.

Mr. Bush has travelled to New Hampshire only once this campaign, irritating many Republican voters who expected him to court them more ardently.

He is scheduled to return on Feb. 12 formally to announce his candidacy for re-election and to address the state legislature. Political sources said a third visit would follow three days later.

The Time/CNN poll, like some previous surveys, also found that an unnamed Democrat would beat Mr. Bush — by 38 to 35 per cent — if the election were held today.

The major Democratic contenders are Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, whose front-runner status in the polls here has been shaken by adultery allegations Senators Tom Harkin of Iowa and Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, former Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts and ex-California Governor Jerry Brown.

Meanwhile Mr. Tsongas and Sen. Kerrey called for stepped up efforts to control the world's exploding population while Gov. Clinton urged funding to protect rain forests.

"I consider the ultimate issue to be world population," Mr. Tsongas told an environmental conference Saturday. "I lived in Ethiopia and I know what happens when the land cannot support a population."

Four of the major Democratic presidential candidates were addressing the conference via satellite while campaigning in New Hampshire and a fifth, former Gov. Brown, was set to appear in person.

Mr. Tsongas, Sen. Kerrey and Gov. Clinton addressed the Global Warming Leadership Forum Saturday while Gov. Brown and Sen. Harkin were set to deliver their remarks Sunday.

President Bush and his rival Republican presidential contender, Buchanan, did not plan to attend.

Sen. Kerrey declared that the annual population growth of 90 million on a planet already overtaxed by 5 1/2 billion people is a "big issue for me."

Armenia vows to defend enclave

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Armenian Defence Minister Vargen Sarkisyan has vowed to turn the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh into an "impregnable fortress" to prevent its takeover by Azerbaijan, news agency reported Sunday.

Moscow Radio said dozens of people have died in pitched battles Friday and Saturday as fighting over control of the Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan escalated.

"In the past few days, the sides have made wider use of planes, artillery and rocket launchers," the radio said.

The ITAR-TASS News Agency said that Mr. Sarkisyan has vowed to defend the region against Azerbaijani forces. "Our ultimate goal is to turn Karabakh into an impregnable fortress," he said in an interview on Armenian Television.

He said over the next few months, there will be "the most difficult situation from the military point of view." But, he said, the defences of the region are becoming stronger every day.

More than 30 Armenians and Azerbaijani fighters died in pitched battles Saturday as the intensity of the fighting increased, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

The Russian Television news programme Vesti said Saturday night that during January, more than 60 Armenians had been killed and more than 90 people were wounded. Many of the victims were old people and children who were killed in their houses by rocket fire, the television report said.

The fighting appeared to mark a new phase in the nearly four-year old battle for Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous region populated mainly by Armenians that is located entirely inside

Azerbaijan. Hundreds of people have died in the former Soviet Union's bloodiest conflict.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at the United Nations on Friday that a United Nations peacekeeping mission should be sent to the region to prevent further fighting.

"It's a matter for the two countries, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, as independent states," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters. "But, I think the time has come to do this."

Groups of armed Azeris and Armenians fought Sunday in and around the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, agencies from both republics reported.

And an Azeri Defence Ministry official accused Armenian gunmen of crossing into Azerbaijan early Sunday morning to attack villages.

"They committed a state crime by violating the border of Azerbaijan," the Azerbaijani Assa-irada Agency quoted the official, Colonel Ramiz Melikov, as saying.

Both Assa-irada and the Armenian Noyan Tapan News Agency said fighting was continuing in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Intensive fighting is continuing along parts of the border with Nagorno-Karabakh," a Noyan Tapan correspondent said from the Armenian capital Yerevan. He was quoting an Armenian Interior Ministry officer in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijani and Armenian media reports say dozens have been killed in Nagorno-Karabakh since fighting flared up last week. The latest upsurge occurred after the crash of an Azerbaijani helicopter in which some 40 people died.

Azerbaijani accused Armenian militants of destroying the heli-



copter with a heat-seeking missile as it carried mainly civilian passengers from Agdam to Shusha, the second largest town in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia says the aircraft was carrying weapons when it exploded in mid-air.

The battles have been among the heaviest in four years of conflict over the region — mainly populated by Armenians but located in and administered by Azerbaijan. At least 1,000 people have died.

The latest clashes across the snow-capped mountains have been concentrated around Shusha, an Azeri stronghold about 10 kilometres from Stepanakert.

Azerbaijani's Turan News Agency — in a Saturday report — said 160 Azeris had been killed and 300 injured since the fighting flared up. It did not say how it obtained the figure.

Mr. Melikov said Armenian armed groups had crossed over

the Azerbaijani border in several regions and destroyed houses in a number of villages before they withdrew.

Several other Azeri villages were being shelled, he added. On Saturday more than 10,000 gathered in the capital Baku to demand tough action from their government to protect Azeris in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Niaz Ibrahimov, deputy head of the opposition Popular Front, called for decisive measures. He said: "In Karabakh, a war is going on, a real war, and here somewhere far away, all we are doing is talking about some sort of conflict."

"We think our government, and above all the president, is not taking enough action."

Many Azeris say their young country's National Army, established late last year to replace the departing Soviet army, lacks the means to deal with the Armenian forces.

Yugoslav, Serbian leaders hold all night crisis talks

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav and Serbian leaders held all-night crisis talks deep into Sunday to try to prevent the collapse of a United Nations peace plan for Yugoslavia.

The State Presidency and Serbian leaders from across the country were locked in debate after 13 hours with no sign that they had persuaded Serb leaders in Croatia to let the United Nations send peacekeeping troops to areas under their control.

The world body needs the backing of all the warring sides in Yugoslavia's seven-month conflict to deploy up to 10,000 peacekeepers in Croatia.

But leaders of the Serb-controlled Krajina region in Croatia refused Saturday to bow to the pressure and said they would not allow U.N. peacekeepers into their territories.

"The (Krajina) government concluded that as there were no changes in the... plan, there is no reason to change our previous stance," a Krajina spokesman said before the talks.

"They are still talking," said an official at Krajina's Belgrade office Sunday. The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug confirmed the meeting was still in progress.

No details were available but the Krajina leaders appeared to be holding out, despite threats of unspecified sanctions by the presidency last week if they did not accept the U.N. plan.

"I have no right to make any concessions to anyone," Krajina President Milan Babic told the Serbian newspaper Politika after an earlier 15-hour meeting Friday.

Failure to reach agreement would be a deep blow to hopes of

ending the fighting between Croatian militia and Serb forces backed by the Yugoslav army since Croatia declared independence last June. More than 6,000 people have been killed.

Many Yugoslavs and diplomats say the U.N. plan is the only hope of securing a lasting ceasefire, although a fragile truce has held since Jan. 3. Five people were reported killed in weekend clashes.

Mr. Babic objects to proposals to disarm Serbs in his region and withdraw the Yugoslav army from Krajina, a strip of land running east and south of the Croatian capital Zagreb and containing more than 300,000 ethnic Serbs.

He says such moves would endanger Serbs and wants U.N. troops only along Krajina's border with the rest of Croatia.

The Krajina leaders said Saturday that the presidency threatened what amounted to a coup d'etat in Krajina. The federal presidency denied issuing the threat.

Croatia has also objected to key parts of the plan because it fears it would lose land seized by the Serbs.

U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding visited Yugoslavia last week to try to secure an agreement on the peacekeepers but failed.

In weekend clashes, Croatian television said two Croatian guardsmen were killed in an ambush near Otocac in western Croatia Saturday. Two people were killed when the nearby village of Dabar came under artillery attack, it said.

Croatian radio said Sunday that one person was killed in sporadic shooting near Osijek in eastern Croatia.

Canada offers Russia friendship and grain

OTTAWA (AGENCIES) — Canada signed a five-year, 25-million tonne grain deal with Russia Saturday, the highlight of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's brief visit to cement the growing friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference that he was heartened by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's warm reception and concrete gestures to help Russia through difficult times.

Mr. Yeltsin spent five hours in Ottawa, concluding a three-day trip in which he met U.S. President George Bush and other Western leaders and attended a U.N. Security Council meeting.

In addition to the grain deal, which represents a resumption of the five-year supply contracts that Canada had traditionally signed with the Soviet Union, Mr. Mulroney said Russia would receive preferential tariff treatment.

Canada also extended a 100 million Canadian dollar (\$87 million) credit line for capital goods, responding to Mr. Yeltsin's plea for assistance in exploiting Russia's riches.

The two leaders signed a protocol of friendship, expected to lead to a full treaty involving cooperation on arms control, Arctic development and other issues.

Mr. Yeltsin said he was grateful to the Canadian government, whose actions he contrasted with those of other governments "which talk about support and cooperation, but do not take things further than mere talk."

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Bush hailed the new, warmer relations between their two countries and discussed arms control at a mini-summit earlier Saturday at Mr. Bush's retreat in Camp David, Maryland.

Mr. Yeltsin expressed gratitude to Mr. Bush for his plan to airlift humanitarian aid to Russia on Feb. 10. But the two countries struck no new agreements over the weekend.

The Russian leader, who turned 61 Saturday, sounded dis-

heartened as he described his earlier meeting with business leaders in New York who expressed nervousness about investing in Russia in its current chaotic state.

Despite a tenfold jump in prices, reflecting the abrupt devaluation in Russia, "the people support us on the whole," Mr. Yeltsin said. "But their support is not interminable."

He said the winter months through April would be particularly difficult because of a shortage of foodstuffs.

A spokesman for Mr. Mulroney's office said the prime minister gently broached Russian-Ukrainian relations over dinner, as Canada has a large number of Ukrainian immigrants.

But Mr. Yeltsin refused to discuss the matter, telling a Russian journalist who asked about Ukraine: "This is our own internal affair. Canadians cannot possibly be interested in this."

Before leaving Canada, Mr. Yeltsin invited Mr. Mulroney to Moscow and accepted his host's invitation to return again this year, before the scheduled meeting of the leaders of the group of seven industrial powers.

Canadian Energy Minister Jake Epp will lead a delegation of 23 Canadian oil and gas company chiefs to Russia in the weeks ahead to discuss extraction of energy resources. Industry Minister Michael Wilson will head another group of industrial managers on a Russian visit in the summer.

Mr. Yeltsin left Ottawa more than an hour late for Moscow.

At U.S. President Bush's retreat, Camp David, Mr. Yeltsin signed a declaration outlining a new relationship. Both presidents declared their countries allies after decades of U.S.-Soviet rivalry.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Mulroney made similar expressions of mutual support, but Mr. Yeltsin's Canadian stopover also revealed his frustration at world reaction to Russia's struggle.

Ukrainians see problems deepening

SENKOVKA, Ukraine (R) — The joy Ukrainians felt when they won independence from Moscow two months ago is being diminished by a deepening economic crisis and a military row with their mighty neighbour Russia.

"Things were better before," said Elyena Guzd, a peasant housewife in this remote village of brightly-painted wooden houses on the border with Russia and Belarus, 110 kilometres from the capital Kiev.

"If I'd known how it was all going to turn out, I don't know how I would have voted."

Like nine of 10 Ukrainians, Ms. Guzd opted for independence in a Dec. 1 referendum last year. The vote was the last blow to the teetering Soviet Union which collapsed a matter of weeks later.

Now 11 former Soviet republics have regrouped in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and are trying to disentangle their production networks while moving from the old Communist command economy to a free market.

The results so far have been economic chaos and growing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the two most powerful Commonwealth members, over how to divide up the Soviet Armed Forces, especially the Black Sea Fleet.

"You know, even during the (Second World) war we could at least be sure of a ration of 400 grammes (14 ounces) of bread a day," said retired Kiev doctor Valentina Marchenko.

Discontent is growing over the government's failure to carry out decisive market reforms and President Leonid Kravchuk is due to carry out a major reshuffle next week.

U.K. Labour attacks dirty tricks campaign

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party Sunday attacked reports that its leaders had close contacts with the Kremlin during the early 1980s as a vicious smear tactic and said the country was facing the dirtiest election campaign this century.

In a front-page story hyped by television advertising, the Sunday Times said it had found diplomatic cables in Communist Party files in Moscow detailing repeated contacts between Labour Party leaders and Soviet diplomats between 1979 and 1985.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock was quoted as telling the Soviets that he wanted a "concrete dialogue" with them, criticising the ruling Conservatives' cruise mis-

siles and saying he believed Britons were prepared to strongly resist the government.

The reports, which the Sunday Times said showed Labour was eager to negotiate with the Soviet Union at the height of the cold war, were published in the midst of a cut-throat campaign ahead of a general election which must be held by July.

Labour is running neck and neck with Prime Minister John Major's Conservative Party in opinion polls.

"It is now plain that faced with electoral defeat, Mr. Major has given the go-ahead for dirtiest Conservative election campaign of the century," Labour's foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kauf-

man said Sunday.

Labour did not refute the reports in detail but said they had been sensationalised to try to cast doubt on Mr. Kinnock.

Diplomats said the substance of the allegations was hardly damaging and that contacts between overseas ambassadors and politicians on all sides were routine diplomatic activity.

Former KGB agent Oleg Gordievsky, who defected to Britain in 1985, said Mr. Kinnock had visited the Soviet embassy in London. But he added "many politicians and union leaders also went and I am sure neither he (Kinnock) nor other senior colleagues were ever disloyal to the party or their country."

Doctor testifies Tyson's accuser had injuries consistent with rape

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A doctor who examined a teenage beauty contestant testified that she had injuries consistent with rape but told him she was afraid to bring charges against former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

"She said she was scared, because it would be her word against Mr. Tyson's," Dr. Thomas Richardson told the Marion Superior Court jury Saturday.

Tyson, 25, is charged with rape, confinement and criminal deviate conduct. If convicted, he faces up to 63 years in prison.

Dr. Richardson, the emergency room physician who examined the 18-year-old woman the day after the alleged rape, said he found injuries consistent with forced intercourse. He said he had seen such injuries as a result of consensual sex only twice, but they occur in up to 30 per cent of rape cases, he said.

"Usually, with a consensual act, you're relaxing things," he said. "You don't want it to hurt."

The physician dismissed as "garbage" a study cited by the

defence showing evidence of vaginal trauma in a majority of women who had consensual sex.

The defence contends the woman consented to sex with Tyson. During her testimony, Tyson's accuser said she experienced "excruciating pain."

Dr. Richardson said the woman appeared composed but her voice quivered when she told him of the incident and her indecision about pressing charges.

Earlier, Judge Patricia Gifford barred testimony about Tyson's purported sexual advances toward chauffeur Virginia Foster the day before the alleged rape.

Prosecutor Greg Garrison had argued that Ms. Foster's descriptions of Tyson grabbing her, trying to kiss her and exposing himself to her "demonstrates that irrespective of anybody's consent, he's going to get what he wants."

"That state of mind is like fingerprint evidence," he said. In her testimony, Ms. Foster said the woman appeared frantic and frightened as she rushed from Tyson's hotel in the pre-dawn hours of July 19.

"She might have been in a state of shock, a daze, disoriented. She seemed scared," Ms. Foster said.

On cross-examination, she admitted she couldn't see if the woman was crying when she emerged from Tyson's hotel.

"She rushed into that limo too fast for me to know," she said.

Tyson and his accuser met during a rehearsal for the pageant on July 18. The woman has testified that she was in bed about 1.30 a.m. on July 19 when Tyson telephoned her from his limousine and insisted she come out and talk with him while they drove around Indianapolis.

Ms. Foster told the jury of eight men and four women that she heard Tyson talking to the woman on the phone as he sat in the gold Cadillac limousine outside her hotel.

Ms. Foster said that when the woman emerged from the hotel, her "pretty hairdo" was in disarray. The driver said she heard the woman say, "I don't believe him I don't believe him who does he think he is?" After she climbed into the limo.

More than 30 hurt as quake jolts Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — More than 30 people were injured and two fires were reported Sunday after the strongest earthquake in over six years jolted the Japanese capital and surrounding regions, authorities said.

Police said about 32 people were injured, one seriously, as a result of the earthquake that measured 5.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale and five on the Japanese scale of seven.

The Japanese scale measures ground motion in a given area in relation to the epicentre, while the Richter measures the absolute seismic energy of an earthquake.

"Most of the people were injured in their sleep when they were hit by vases and books falling off shelves," said a Tokyo police official.

He said one woman was seriously hurt when she fell down a staircase and several others suffered shock as a result of the

tremor, the strongest to hit Tokyo since October 1985.

The Central Meteorological Agency (CMA) said the earthquake struck at 4:04 a.m. (1904 GMT Saturday) and lasted a little over 10 seconds. Its epicentre was located 90 kilometres below Tokyo Bay.

Seismograph monitors recorded 21 aftershocks, too small to be felt, over a five-hour period after the earthquake.

The main quake could be felt up to 160 kilometres from Tokyo, where 12 million people reside, the CMA said. The population of Tokyo and surrounding areas about 30 million.

Two fires broke out in the Tokyo area but were extinguished by fire fighters, authorities said. There were no reports of power failure or natural gas leaks.

Tokyo Gas Co, the region's main gas supplier, reported that its service was automatically shut

off to many city homes outfitted with quake-sensitive meters. Individual householders could resume service by simply resetting their meters.

A Japan Railway official said while service had resumed on all Tokyo lines, some of the long-distance bullet trains were running behind schedule and around 240,000 people were affected.

A quake measuring five on the Japanese scale is considered strong enough to crack walls and cause garden walls to collapse.

Sunday's tremor, however, caused little major damage other than to shake buildings and jolt books, dishes and other items off shelves.

Tokyo is situated near the convergence of two shifting sections of the Earth's crust and is often rocked by minor quakes.

It has not experienced a major earthquake since 1923, when the great Kanto earthquake killed

140,000 people in Tokyo, Yokohama and neighbouring regions, mostly in fires. More than 560,000 homes were destroyed.

The CMA reported that the Unzen Volcano on the southern island of Kyushu began erupting Sunday at 8:30 a.m. (23:30 GMT Saturday), spewing out hot gas and rocks. It said there was no link between the Tokyo quake and the eruption, some 1,000 kilometres south west of the capital.

Unzen's worst eruption on June 3, 1991, killed some 40 people and thousands of people who resided on the long-dormant volcano have been unable to return to their homes.

Japan's 123 million people share their densely-populated country with 77 of the world's 800 or so active volcanoes. The country is also rocked by one-tenth of the world's strongest earthquakes every year, according to seismologists.

COLUMN 8

Briton invents tap-water bra to replace implants

LONDON (R) — British granddad Peter Brown has come up with an invention for women wanting bigger breasts — a bra that can be filled with tap water.

Brown, 65, a retired motor mechanic, created the bra after recent concern over the safety of silicone breast implants. He said women could double their vital statistics by putting a plastic bag filled with about one pint (half a litre) of water into a special envelope of material sewn into the bra.

"If anyone sticks a pin in it or if anything goes wrong, all she gets is a wet front," said Brown, who has taken out a patent to protect his invention. The United States Food and Drug Administration last month called a temporary halt to silicone breast implants saying they could increase the risk of cancer. But Britain said it saw no need to halt the implant surgery.

McDonald's cuts prices of Big Mac in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow's Big Mac goes down in price as the restaurant which claims to be the busiest in the world reacts to a tough Russian winter of economic hardship. While queues remain endemic for pricier essential goods, they have all but disappeared at McDonald's in Moscow, belying the bitter joke that the restaurant offered the slowest fast food in the world. At the restaurant's second anniversary party Friday, its Vice-Chairman George Colson said McDonald's would stop charging customers a 28 per cent value added tax imposed since the start of the year.

"We have no argument with the tax, but we have a loyal customer base and, starting tomorrow and throughout the winter, we are going to take the tax off. We are going to lower our prices by 28 per cent," he said. A Big Mac currently costs 59 rubles, about 59 cents at the Russian Central Bank's market rate, but over half the 100 ruble grant received each month by a student at a technical college. McDonald's opened its Moscow branch to huge queues two years ago. It is the biggest of 12,000 outlets around the world.

Oxford shuts sybaritic don's nude playground

LONDON (R) — Oxford University has shut a riverside enclosure where centuries-old tradition allowed male tutors and students to bathe naked on lazy summer days. Lawyers have told the university, a cradle of learning for Britain's establishment, that without a lifeguard it could be liable if anyone drowned at the site known as "Faron's Pleasure." Bare scholars have lined up there on the sunlit banks of the Cherwell River, discussing poetry and Plato for 300 years. But the university, its owner since 1865, says it cannot afford the lifeguard and the "bathing place was closed," a spokeswoman confirmed. "It was also considered inappropriate," she added. "The spot is one of the most beautiful on the Cherwell and should be open to everybody." The area was screened on all sides except where it faced the river. Ladies passing by in the flat-bottomed boats preferred by relaxing students were advised to disembark and walk round, remembering beyond the languid scene.

Wallet in chest pocket saves dentist from bullet

TOKYO (AP) — A dentist's wallet saved his life when it stopped a bullet in a murder attempt, police said. Hiroshi Oyama, 62-year-old dentist in Osaka, western Japan, was confronted by a gunman late Thursday outside his home just after returning from dinner, said an official at Hirakata Police, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Are you Mr. Oyama?" a middle-aged man with a mustache asked him, police said quoting from the moment Oyama gave them. The moment Oyama replied "yes," he heard the gun fire once, the official said. The bullet hit Oyama's chest on the right side but was stopped by a leather wallet in his jacket pocket containing 242,000 yen (\$1,930), the official said. The bullet hit Oyama's chest on the right side but was stopped by a leather wallet in his jacket pocket containing 242,000 yen (\$1,930), the official said. The bullet hit Oyama's chest on the right side but was stopped by a leather wallet in his jacket pocket containing 242,00